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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-124
Wednesday
28 June 1995

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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Islamic Affairs

OIC Economic Committee Begins Session in Jeddah

LD2406191395 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1750 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 24 June — Dr. Hamid Algabid, The Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] today opened the 19th session of the Islamic committee on economic and cultural and social affairs in the presence of the delegates of member states. The session will last five days. [passage omitted]

Algabid reviewed in his opening address the economic and cultural programs that had been undertaken by the organization and its various machinery in the Islamic world.

Afterward, Ambassador Camara, director general of the international cooperation the Guinean Foreign Ministry, was elected joint chairman and the head of the delegation of Bangladesh and the leader of the Senegalese delegation as deputy chairmen and the leader of the Pakistani delegation as a rapporteur.

The leader of the Moroccan delegation Abderrahman Bouchaar, who is chairman of the session, addressed the committee. [passage omitted] He also said that the meeting is taking place during crucial period of the history of the Islamic nation, which has been confronting constant challenges in the political, economic, cultural and social fields. [passage omitted]

It is worth mentioning that the session will be debating a number of economic, cultural and social topics of interest OIC member states. [passage omitted]

Islamic Development Bank Committee Begins Meeting

LD2406212195 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1905 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 24 Jun — At the headquarters of the Islamic Development Bank, the work of the second meeting of the committee began this morning. The committee will evaluate the performance and the achievements of the bank during the last two decades.

Members of the committee include a number of the ministers of finance and economy and governors of central banks in members states. The committee is chaired by Muhammad al-'Imadi, Syrian minister of economy and foreign trade . [passage omitted]

The committee will discuss the best and most effective methods to develop the bank's programs and its future operations in order to enable it to participate with greater effectiveness in tackling the economic and social development issues confronting Islamic states who are members of the bank and Islamic societies in non-member states. They also will discuss consolidating the effectiveness of the development assistance offered by the bank. [passage omitted]

It is expected that the committee will submit its recommendations to the 20th annual meeting of the governors of the bank, which will be held at finance and economy and planning ministers level, and is scheduled to convene in November 1995 in the Indonesian capital Jakarta.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Interviewed on Mubarak Assassination Attempt

NC2706191995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Talking Newspaper" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, undoubtedly what happened to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and the failed treacherous attack on him is aggression against peace and the region's stability. How does Palestinian President 'Arafat view this treacherous attack?

['Arafat] Almighty God protected his excellency the struggling president with His care from this treacherous, criminal act. This is not only a blessing for Egypt or Palestine, but also a blessing for our Arab and Islamic nation.

May God protect President Husni Mubarak from any harm and may the hands of those who tried to carry out this treacherous act be paralyzed.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency Palestinian President Abu-'Ammar, no doubt that such operations are a blow to the essence of peace which the two leaders, Mubarak and 'Arafat, are seeking. What is the impact of the terrorist attack on the peace process and on your enormous efforts for this peace and for the region's stability?

['Arafat] Not only this, but also the strong and magnificent stand of Egypt on two basic issues, the nuclear issue and the Palestinian cause, on top of which is the Jerusalem question. This stand adopted by President Mubarak and Egypt can only be met with every admiration and high appreciation by every sincere person and believer in this Arab nation.

President Mubarak will not be undermined. I spoke with him and, thank God, I assured myself about him over the telephone yesterday. I greet him again from Ethiopia. I say thank God, who protected him with His care, because by this, God protects Egypt, Palestine, and the Arab nation from any [word indistinct] of this frivolous, irresponsible, crazy act which targets not only President Mubarak, but also the Arab nation, the entire region, peace in the region, and every effort aiming to raise the banner of our Arab and Islamic nation.

[Correspondent] What does Abu-'Ammar say about traitorous terrorism?

['Arafat] I tell them: May your hands be paralyzed. You will not succeed. Your destiny will only be failure because of these irresponsible, inhumane, and unpatriotic acts.

[Correspondent] Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, thank you very much.

['Arafat] Thank you.

'Arafat Visits Injured Ambassador in Addis Ababa

JN2706191695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat today visited Yusuf Rajab, ambassador of Palestine to Ethiopia, who was injured in the sinful attack on the motorcade of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa.

President 'Arafat was accompanied by the Ethiopian foreign minister as a representative of the Ethiopian president. The foreign minister wished the ambassador speedy recovery and denounced the terrorist incident.

Islamic Jihad Group Claims Mubarak Attack

LD2706075995 Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network in Finnish 0600 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A group belonging to the extremist Islamic Jihad organization has claimed responsibility for the murder attempt against the Egyptian president. According to the Egyptian authorities, the group's leader has sought asylum in Norway and the group is in close cooperation with a Jihad leader living in Denmark. This leader has been sentenced to death in Egypt for his involvement in the murder of President Anwar Sadat in 1981, the Danish paper MORGENAVISEN JYLLANDS-POSTEN writes.

Al-Tibi: Israeli Redeployment Terms 'Impossible'

MM2706131595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Jun 95 p 3

[Report by Salih al-Qallab: "Al-Tibi Stresses Palestinians' Rejection of Partial Redeployment in West Bank"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman — Well-informed Arab sources have said that Egypt is making extensive efforts to bring Palestinian and Israeli views closer vis-a-vis the disputed issues concerning the draft agreement on the Israeli Army's redeployment in the West Bank in preparation for the self-rule elections. The draft agreement in question consists of 16 points.

The sources said that the Egyptian efforts focus on the possibility of finding a compromise solution to the disagreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis over the redeployment stages, as the Palestinians insist that the entire redeployment process in the West Bank should be completed before the self-rule elections. While the Israeli side insists that the redeployment be conducted in Janin, Tulkarm, Nabulus, Qalqilyah, and the villages belonging to it before the elections, and then the process would be completed after the elections.

Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, adviser to the Palestinian president for Israeli affairs, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone that the gap between the Palestinian and Israeli views is still very wide. And that the Israelis continue to insist on impossible conditions the Palestinians cannot accept under any circumstances.

Dr. al-Tibi said that the Palestinians cannot accept that the self-rule elections be held in Janin, Nabulus, Tulkarm, and Qalqilyah in conditions different from those in which the elections are going to be held in Hebron, Bethlehem, and Ramallah.

Dr. al-Tibi means that the Palestinians cannot agree to hold elections in Hebron, Bethlehem, and Ramallah under Israeli military control, while the elections are held in Janin, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, and Nabulus under Palestinian military control.

At this level AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Egyptian and U.S. efforts are focusing on the possibility of developing an Israeli proposal stating the possibility of a temporary withdrawal from Ramallah, Hebron, and Bethlehem for three days, during which the self-rule elections would be held in these areas while the elections are held in the northern areas, provided Israeli forces return to their previous posts [after the elections]. [passage omitted]

Sha'th Demands Release of All Prisoners, Detainees

JN2706152995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, has demanded the Israeli Government to release all prisoners and detainees according to a specified timetable. During a popular sit-in staged in front of the Red Cross headquarters in Gaza today, Sha'th said that he will meet with Israeli Minister of Police Moshe Shahal this week to discuss the issue of prisoners and detainees.

Al-Husayni Comments on Jerusalem, Elections

MM2706134495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Jun 95 p4

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of Jerusalem affairs, by Bari'ah 'Alam-al-Din in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Alam-al-Din] What is the truth about the conditions now prevalent inside the city of Jerusalem and how far has the processes of eating away at more of its lands and the Jerusalem Judaization process gone?

[Al-Husayni] When Israel occupied Jerusalem in 1967, the area of the Arab Jerusalem municipality covered six square kilometers. The Israelis expanded this area to 72 square kilometers and set aside 52 percent of this area as a green zone. They also confiscated 34 percent of the city's area and left us as Palestinians with only 14 percent of the total area. Through this planning and new annexation, they avoided populated areas. For this reason, you find some villages were bypassed by the plan, which then turned around to annex the largest possible part of the uninhabited areas.

If we look at the original area of six square kilometers which constituted Arab Jerusalem at the time of its occupation in 1967, we find that the largest number of its inhabitants today are Arabs.

Anyone touring the old city today will find nothing but an Arab city consisting of Christian and Muslim Arab inhabitants. We have succeeded in affirming our presence in the some areas which extend as far as Ramallah and have thus preserved their Arab character.

Now the Israeli presence is centered on the areas surrounding Jerusalem, in some areas which they turned into contact points between the areas they were in prior to 1967 and the areas they inhabited after that date.

But the overall picture of Jerusalem continues to be Arab Jerusalem, as we have succeeded in keeping education in our hands since 1967. We have also succeeded in keeping health, social affairs, and cultural and trade union affairs in our hands.

We have also succeeded in preserving international support for our cause by maintaining East Jerusalem as an Arab right forming part of the whole of Jerusalem as a city which should have its own status, and not as a city annexed to Israel. This is evident from the continued refusal by world countries to transfer their embassies to Jerusalem.

Our presence in Jerusalem is still established and so are our feet, at a time when Israel's position there is shaking.

['Alam al-Din] Do you mean that Israel was not working to Judaize the city through the annexation of its lands and building of more Jewish residential complexes within its boundaries?

[Al-Husayni] No. What I am saying is that the Israelis have not succeeded in penetrating the heart of Jerusalem, despite their repeated attempts, since the beginning of the occupation, to empty the old city of the Palestinians and create a presence which would link Hadassah and West Jerusalem through a chain of settlements.

Now they are trying to implant their presence inside the city of Jerusalem. Hence the clamor that was raised to deter them from doing so. But the confiscation of lands is continuing and so is the erection of buildings around it. But we have stopped all building operations inside it, because our bases are strong on the ground. The important thing is that the condition of Jerusalem is serious but not desperate.

Many people have been talking about Jerusalem and the attempt to Judaize it in a manner that implies that the city has been lost. But this is not a precise feeling and does not match the reality. For we have imposed in Jerusalem a religious presence which is not attached to Israel. We have also imposed a political presence, by which I mean the Orient House. It was for this that Israel tried in the recent battle to rob us of the victories we have achieved over its plans in Jerusalem.

['Alam-al-Din] During the London seminar on Jerusalem, some of the speakers turned their attention away from the condemnation of the Israeli expansionist plans and concentrated on condemning the Palestinian leadership by accusing it of abandoning the rights of the Palestinian people. Was that the purpose for which the seminar was held?.

[Al-Husayni] I do not believe that any purpose is served by this sort of criticsm or the criticism leveled against the Palestinian leadership outside the areas of the Palestinian rule or outside the Palestinian body.

When the Greek armies besieged Troy and tried to infiltrate it and failed, they began to withdraw in frustration and only a small number of soldiers remained outside the city's walls. The besieged inside the walls of Troy rejoiced at this result and brought the wooden horse left behind by the Greek soldiers into the city, not realizing that the horse contained a trap and that it was full of Greek soldiers who seized the opportunity of the Trojans' preoccupation with their revels over their victory and attacked and routed them and opened Troy's doors to the Greek armies.

Had Israel not been convinced that the PLO and the Palestinian forces were no longer mere slogans, it would not have allowed them in. It is our duty to make the entry of the horse the beginning and not the end of our hope, with one significant difference between the two horses: The horse that entered Troy did so in order to destroy it, while we are entering to build our entity and our peaceful vision of the just solution.

['Alam-al-Din] They say that Abu-Mazin (Mahmud 'Abbas) says that the revolutionary leaderships were not essentially capable of building a state. What do you say to that?

[Al-Husayni] I had a big role in the past, yet I am continuing to perform my duty. This role might still change but this change does not permit me or anybody else for that matter to think of withdrawing.

The building stage must be led by a revolutionary, but this revolutionary should be in the picture. The important thing for us is to work for the establishment of effective institutions and to building conscious collective leaderships and rid ourselves of the Third World failings.

['Alam-al-Din] Dr. Edward Said has proposed the formation of a committee of diaspora Palestinians to support the Jerusalem cause. What do you think of this proposal?

[Al-Husayni] Every action that would help to bolster our position in Jerusalem and from Jerusalem will be of benefit to us. The European support for us requires constant follow-up and greater activation, and this is the role of us all.

['Alam-al-Din] How far have your contacts with the Vatican over the question of Jerusalem reached?

[Al-Husayni] The dialogue committee has been continuing its contacts with the Vatican. I believe we are still amiss because we have failed to appoint an ambassador to represent us at the Vatican. This is something that we should discuss and do.

It is extremely necessary that the three religions should adopt a unified stand toward the question of Jerusalem and its future.

['Alam-al-Din] How serious is the dialogue between you and the Hamas Movement and could it be expected to turn into a political party?

[Al-Husayni] The dialogue with Hamas has never stopped for one single day even when clashes with it were taking place. For dialogue is the road to understanding and the building of a better future for all of us. No successful movement confines its plans to military action alone.

['Alam-al-Din] Have you been holding contacts with the Congress to halt the rush by some members of the U.S. House of Representatives to demand the transfer of the U.S. Embassy to the City of Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] Contacts are going on in this regard with the U.S. Administration, and I have visited Washington for this purpose. I shall return there shortly to continue my contacts.

['Alam-al-Din] One of the Israeli ministers has proposed that the Israeli withdrawal measures from the West Bank be carried out in stages starting with an agreement to be signed in July with the withdrawal taking place in the fall. What do you think of that?

[Al-Husayni] If they are talking about a phased agreement which provides for withdrawal by successive stages that would be completed in its entirety before the date of the Palestinian elections, then this would be acceptable. But if what is intended is Israeli withdrawal from some towns only and thus elections held under the aegis of occupation in the other towns, then we would reject this.

['Alam-al-Din] Do you think you are on the road to having your independent Palestinian state and will this remain a mere hope?

[Al-Husayni] I believe the March toward the Palestinian state is a serious one and a fact that imposes itself. The wheel cannot turn back.

['Alam-al-Din] If the march gets bogged down and the peace plan fails, what would be the alternative?

[Al-Husayni] The alternative will be anarchy, violence, and a threat to stability throughout the world.

Yusuf on IDF Redeployment, Gaza Security

MM2706134695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Jun 95 p 5

[Interview with Major General Nasr Yusuf, director general of public security, by Mahir 'Uthman in Gaza; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Uthman] Let us begin our interview with the latest developments concerning the negotiations with Israel on the question of redeployment [of Israeli forces] in the West Bank, which means that preparations might be in hand by the Palestinian side for the deployment of Palestinian security forces in the Bank. Have you actually embarked on such preparations?

[Yusuf] In principle, we can say that we are ready to assume our duties once the Israeli Army is redeployed in the West Bank. It is true that our conditions are still afflicted with difficulties, but there is no doubt whatsoever that we can assume our duties in the Bank.

['Uthman] Does this mean that you have enough men in the Gaza Strip or would you need, for example, to mobilize more security and police forces locally from the West Bank?

[Yusuf] In principle, we will operate in both parts. We have men (in Gaza) but we will also mobilize men from the West Bank as well.

['Uthman] Do you have at present any information about the areas where the deployment will take place? Naturally, this matter depends on the negotiations. Will the deployment take place in the cities and will it cover the roads linking the cities of the West Bank?

[Yusuf] We expect some use to be made of our experience in Gaza in this field and that the redeployment operation and the assumption of security duties by the Palestinian security forces would take place under conditions which would help the safeguarding of security in a better manner, overcoming complications or the causes of tension that existed in Gaza.

But so far, we cannot talk (about it) because the negotiations are still continuing, and so we cannot anticipate events. The negotiations have not yet reached their final form which will decide the basis on which the redeployment of Israeli forces and the deployment of the Palestinian security forces will take place.

['Uthman] The circles that have been monitoring security conditions (in the Gaza Strip) are agreed that security is prevailing there. On the other hand, there is some criticism being voiced that there are too many and too varied Palestinian security outfits, a matter which might give rise to instances of incompatibility among them and lead to some abuses of authority. What do you say about that?

[Yusuf] You are now in Gaza and you can see that the state of security is not so bad. But there is no doubt that we still need to exert greater efforts to develop this stability further and continue our efforts in this direction.

As to the multiplicity of the outfits, the official outfits we have are those that were agreed upon in the Cairo accord. I believe that generally these outfits are working in unison and in a complementary manner in the carrying out of their duties. There is some kind of competition and rivalry among all outfits in the world, but in the end the nature of their work remains complementary to each other in the carrying out of one task.

['Uthman] Every now and then, assassinations have been taking place in the Gaza Strip. Sometimes, these assassinations are directed against members of the Islamic Resistance Movement—Hamas, while at other times they are against members of the Islamic Jihad movement. The Palestinian security forces have investigated these incidents. What conclusions have they formed about these assassinations?

[Yusuf] The assassinations we have been seeing are due to more than one factor. In the case of the assassination of Hani al-'Abid, for example, the culprits who assassinated him did so on Israeli orders. Then there is the assassination of Mahmud al-Khawajah (at Al-Shati' camp on 22 June), which was evidently an Israeli assassination too. Other assassinations were due to old family feuds and vendettas and most of those involved in these assassinations have been arrested. There are also assassinations with an economic background, caused by partnerships in illegal types of work or in prohibited commodities. Sometimes, disputes arise in this field leading to assassinations.

['Uthman] You mean drugs and contraband?

[Yusuf] Yes. Basically, drug smuggling. Most of those involved in this field have been arrested. As to political assassinations, in the true and clear sense of the word, there are only the two assassinations: those of Al-'Abid and of Al-Khawajah.

['Uthman] Until the assassination of Mahmud Al-Khawajah, there was an abatement in the Hamas and Jihad operations. Yet the Palestinian National Authority used to argue that the nearer the time for the transition of power in the West Bank, the more intense become the operations of Hamas and Jihad and that this could cause the curtailment of the transition operation. What can you say about this?

[Yusuf] Such a thing [the intensification of operations] has happened in several past cases. But lately, or rather after Kefar Darom and Nitzarim (two Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip), these operations have met with wide-scale popular discontent and the negative reaction to Hamas was very great. I believe that this was what prompted Hamas to reconsider its method of operations in this field. Of course, this is in addition to the measures taken by the security forces and the (Palestinian National) Authority in this respect.

In fact, it seems that Hamas has decided, without saying so, that it will not carry out any operations until 1 July, because it has fully realized that if it carried out any operations [before that date], the reaction from the street to its operations will be extremely negative. Hence this undeclared position which became evident from the statements issued (by Hamas) following the assassination of Al-Khawajah.

['Uthman] Following the assassination of Mahmud Al-Khawajah, Hamas has issued a strongly worded statement. Have you considered the possibility of Hamas carrying out further operations?

[Yusuf] Yes, we did consider and we are watchful to ensure that there is no reaction at this particular stage or in future stages. We are taking measures to face up to such operations.

['Uthman] This leads us to the question of the dialogue between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas. Has any progress been made in regard to this dialogue? Has the undeclared decision of Hamas to suspend operations been the result of this dialogue?

[Yusuf] I have said that this (the suspension of operations) was due to numerous factors, the most important of which being the popular reaction toward (the after-effect of the operations). Secondly it was due to the measures (taken by the Security forces). Thirdly, it was due to the dialogue. I mean there was more than just one factor.

['Uthman] How far have you progressed in regard to the collection and registration of arms, either from Hamas and Jihad, which declared that they will not surrender their arms, or from ordinary citizens?

[Yusuf] The registration of arms is continuing. We have three kinds of arms: the arms of the Palestinian opposition movement, the arms of the agents, and the arms of the ordinary citizens who possess arms in anticipation and fear of the future. Members of this last group do register their arms. We have already registered no less than 500 arms and issued licenses for them, and their owners are known to us. As to the other groups, they have not yet registered their arms. But we have been confiscating the arms of people who appear in the streets carrying arms.

['Uthman] In your opinion, what are the most important achievements of the Palestinian security forces since their arrival a little over a year ago?

[Yusuf] Security is their most important achievement. You are in Gaza and you can judge for yourself the size and importance of this achievement. I believe that it is not a bad achievement. True, this is not all that we aspire to, but it is reasonable if we take into consideration our (limited) resources and conditions.

['Uthman] You have talked about your resources. How big is the aid you receive? Is it enough or is it too little?

[Yusuf] The aid we receive is small and limited. They used to help us in providing salaries for 9,000 men. This figure [the number of security men] is bound to rise now because of the possible deployment of the Palestinian security forces in the (West) Bank. The date of this (aid) expired at the end of the fourth month (of this year).

['Uthman] The last date for what?

[Yusuf] For the aid covering salaries. Aid might come in respect of the salaries, however, it does not come regularly, but as a particular case...

['Uthman] Does this mean that no salaries have been paid since the end of April?

[Yusuf] No. There have been salaries but not from aid funds. Most of the salaries are paid from an open account, that is as a loan, in the name of the Authority.

As to the other resources, they have been limited. We have received 200 American cars and about 50 cars from Britain and 64 cars from Spain in addition to 40 motorcycles from Spain and 50 others from Germany. We also received a few shields and helmets from Britain, the Netherlands, and Denmark.

['Uthman] How about communications equipment?

[Yusuf] We have a grant from France to the value of one and a quarter million [currency not specified]. We have an agreement with the (French) Company Matra. But this is still the subject of dispute and has not been implemented since a year. The situation concerning communications is still difficult and the same applies to computers and automatic equipment...we suffer from a great shortage in this regard.

We still have a shortage in the field of training. It is true that we have sent a number of people on short courses lasting from 10 days to two weeks in some European countries. But this does not satisfy our needs or meet our purposes, because we now have large numbers [of men] and they need the establishment of a training institution that can absorb large numbers. Thus we need a police training college or academy.

['Uthman] As a security officer, you probably would not want to talk about the joint patrols with the Israeli forces on the roads leading to the Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip. But the security agreement stems out of the political agreement. Naturally, the existence of the settlements is connected with the security aspects [of the agreements].

[Yusuf] The presence of these settlements is temporary and their status will be discussed in the final stage of the negotiations. But for now we deal with them in accordance with the agreement reached in this regard. In fact, we have more than one formula among us [with the Israeli forces]. There is, for instance, the security coordination committee. There are also the liaison committees and the joint patrols. Indeed, this is a very important experiment which has achieved a great success. It has made us understand each other. It is not a bad means of resolving differences in daily work. With regard to the joint patrols, we can say that there are fewer extremist acts in the areas covered by the patrols.

['Uthman] The Palestinian Authority has recently embarked on a campaign for the release of Palestinian detainees and prisoners from Israeli camps, but Israel has failed to respond....

[Yusuf] It is very sad indeed that they [the Israelis] have managed to turn the question of the prisoners from a security issue into a political issue in order to make some political gains in other areas at our expense. The Israelis have violated the Cairo accord with regard to the detainees and prisoners. But we are pursuing the matter to secure their release, because we think that this will help to build trust between the two sides.

['Uthman] In a television debate (broadcast by Palestinian television in Gaza), the [Palestinian] Minister of Justice admitted that the Palestinian Security Forces have detained people in contravention to the law and remanded them without charging them. What do you say to that?

[Yusuf] We are in need of more training. Undoubtedly we have some excesses but they are caused by ignorance. We lack more expertise and more training. We are trying hard to develop our knowledge in order to avoid excesses.

Police Release 2 Hamas Leaders, Others

*NC2706183695 Paris AFP in English
1733 GMT 27 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, June 27 (AFP) — Palestinian police have released two of five leaders of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) as well as three other activists detained in a crackdown, HAMAS said Tuesday [27 June].

Ibrahim al-Yazuri and Muhammad Shamma' were among more than 40 militants who, according to Hamas, were rounded up the previous day after an anti-Israeli suicide bombing.

Palestinian police chief General Nasr Yusuf says only 18 fundamentalists have been taken in, including the five senior leaders.

"I was freed with three other arrested people," al-Yazuri told AFP shortly after his release. "I was not even questioned by the Palestinian police, who treated me well."

Shamma' and Reuters press photographer Ahmad Jadallah were freed on Monday night. But four other top Hamas figures — Mahmud Zahar, Shaykh Ahmad Bahr and Shaykh Ahmad Nimr — remain in detention.

The crackdown came after the Hamas military wing, 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, said one of its members blew up a donkey cart near a Jewish settlement killing himself and lightly wounding three Israeli soldiers on Sunday.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin congratulated Yasir Arafat's autonomy regime on the arrests of what he called "the enemies of peace."

Poll Gauges Palestinians' Attitude to Peace

*TA2306153695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
23 Jun 95 p B3*

[Report by Dani Rubinstein]

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Arafat has no rivals in the internal Palestinian arena; people in the territories are concerned about the Likud's rise to power in the next elections; almost half the Palestinians in the territories believe that the armed struggle against Israel is legitimate in the present political circumstances, but most of them are opposed to suicide attacks. These are some of the findings of a poll conducted among Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip by the East Jerusalem-based Jerusalem Media and Communications Center, made up of a representative sample of almost 1,400 interviewees in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. Jamil Rabbah, who conducted the poll, says one of the questions which most interested him and which may also interest the Israeli public is: "Do you agree to forgo the land lost in 1948 in exchange for a permanent agreement with Israel including the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and The Gaza Strip whose capital is Jerusalem (that is, within the 1967 borders)?"

The answers to this questions were as follows: We will agree to forgo this area — 31.8 percent; we refuse to forgo it — 60.8 percent; no answer — 7.5 percent. In other words, more than 50 percent of the Palestinian public are in principle unwilling to surrender the right of return to territory within the Green Line even in exchange for a Palestinian state to be established in all the areas occupied in 1967. In this poll, the pollsters preferred not to ask more questions about ways of solving the right of return issue. No question was asked, for example, about the possibility of a compromise in the form of compensation. Ghassan al-Khatib, director of the center, says the answers to this question surprised him precisely because about one-third of the interviewees said they are willing to forgo the right of return. He expected the percentage of those answering in the affirmative to be much lower. A deeper analysis of the answers to this question give rise to interesting conjectures.

It appears there is a considerable divergence between the answers given to this question in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Gaza interviewees were more moderate. Some 35 percent of them said they are willing to forgo the right of return in exchange for a state in the 1967 borders, as compared to 30 percent in the West Bank. On the face of it one would expect precisely the opposite; seeing that a large majority of the Gaza Strip residents belong to refugee families who lost all their property in 1948, they would be expected to be much more intransigent on the issue of the right of return. Why is their position different?

Jamil Rabbah believes he has an explanation for this fact, which is also connected to other differences which have been found between the Gaza Strip and West Bank residents. He believes that the five percent divergence between the West Bank and Gaza Strip is statistically significant and agrees with other findings for the two areas.

Let us take as an example the answers for the following questions:

— A year after the establishment of the Palestinian Authority [PA] in the Gaza Strip, are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future of the Palestinians?

Sixty-eight percent of the Gaza residents said they are optimistic, as compared to 52 percent in the West Bank.

— Do you feel there is more security now?

Sixty-nine percent of the Gaza residents said they feel more secure, as compared to only 36 percent in the West Bank.

— Do you support the implementation of the second stage of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank?

Eighty-one percent of the Gaza interviewees said they support this, as compared to 71 percent in the West Bank.

This trend continues throughout the poll. The Gaza Strip residents are more optimistic than their West Bank brethren; they feel more secure, and are more supportive of the peace process than the West Bank residents. They also have a more positive estimate of Yasir 'Arafat. Asked how they evaluate 'Arafat's performance, 61 percent of the Gaza residents said 'Arafat's performance is good, whereas only 46 percent of the West Bank residents believe so.

The conclusions that can be drawn from this is that despite all the hardship and problems they face, the semi-independent Palestinian rule gives Gaza Strip residents a feeling of freedom and relative security. These feelings alleviate the daily difficulties in the Gaza Strip to the point where residents there are more optimistic and satisfied with the political process than are the West Bank residents, who are still under Israeli occupation. This explanation can somewhat allay the anxiety of many Israelis over the finding that approximately 60 percent of the interviewees are unwilling to forgo the right of return even in exchange for a state in the 1967 lines. If a year of Palestinian rule in Gaza could moderate the position of the Gaza refugees regarding the right of return, it is conceivable that progress toward an independent state in the West Bank would increase the number of those willing to compromise on this sensitive issue.

Contrary to other public opinion polls conducted in the territories, which included a few questions only, this poll included 31 questions and its sample was carefully selected after consultation with the PA's central bureau of statistics. Fifty locations in the territories were randomly chosen and categorized on the basis of size into cities, towns, villages, and refugee camps. Each location was sampled according to streets and houses, and in each household one person over 18 was randomly chosen as an interviewee. All interviews were conducted last weekend by experienced interviewers who had undergone special training. The results were processed during the week.

Although the results generally point to support for the continuation of the peace process and a general satisfaction with the Palestinian regime, it transpires that there is some dissatisfaction with the daily performance of the PA. People are saying: It is a good thing we have Palestinian self-rule, but it must considerably improve. A similar picture emerges concerning the answers given on Yasir 'Arafat's performance. People are generally satisfied with him, appreciate him as a leader and symbol, and cannot see anybody to replace him. They are demanding, however, that he improve his regime. When asked where must 'Arafat in particular and the PA in general improve, the almost unanimous answer was directed at the economic sphere. Those who answered that the PA is not performing well were asked: Who do you blame for this situation? Twenty-six percent said Israel is to blame; 23 percent said the PA is at fault; and 22 percent said the nature of the agreement is the basic problem. The others blamed the donors or said that all the above factors are responsible.

When asked to evaluate 'Arafat's management of the negotiations with Israel, one-third answered he is doing this well; one-third said his performance on this score is mediocre; while one-third assessed 'Arafat's performance as bad. Forty-five percent of the interviewees believe 'Arafat is "a democratic personality"; 25 percent said he is not democratic; 18 percent said while it is true that 'Arafat is not democratic, under the circumstances he has no other alternative. The others refused to answer the question.

In one of the questions the interviewees were asked to name two persons who enjoy their total confidence. Forty percent put 'Arafat in first place; 11 percent named Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin; 7 percent chose Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi. Lagging far behind these personages are (in the following order): Faysal-al-Husayni, George Habash, Hanan 'Ashrawi, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Faruq Qaddumi, and Nabil Sha'th.

Another question relating to 'Arafat was cleverly presented: "If elections are held, do you believe 'Arafat should be a candidate?" (the intention was not to see how many people oppose 'Arafat's methods and ways, but to locate those who believe 'Arafat is not even worthy of running for the elections — that is, those who utterly reject him). Twenty percent of the interviewees in the West Bank and Gaza said 'Arafat should not be a candidate.

The following results transpire from a series of questions related to Israel: Is Yitzhaq Rabin fair in the implementation of the agreement with the Palestinians? Yes, Rabin is fair — 10 percent; No, he is not fair — 80 percent. The others did not answer.

The interviewees were also asked to assess their confidence in the intentions of the various Israeli parties. Sixty-three percent attribute good intentions to Darawshah's party; 57 percent attribute good intentions to HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] (the poll notes the name of Knesset Member Hashim Mahamid); 18 percent said Meretz's intentions are good, while 45 percent said they are bad. Twelve percent said the Labor Party has good intentions, while 60 percent said it has bad intentions. Only two percent attributed good intentions to the Likud, while 73 percent believe it has bad intentions. The obvious conclusion is that the Palestinians are clearly concerned about the possibility of the Likud's return to power.

Asked about the armed struggle, forty-three percent answered that the armed struggle against Israel is not legitimate under the present political circumstances, while 42 percent justified the continuation of the armed struggle. Fifty-two percent said they are opposed to suicide attacks, while 33 percent support it. The other figures indicate that there is relative stability in the level of political support for the various organizations. Fatah heads the list with 46 percent of support, with Hamas behind it with 18 percent, followed by the small organizations: the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine with four percent, the Islamic Jihad with four percent, and lower figures for the other organizations.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Syria Rejects U.S. Proposal for Troops on Golan

TA2806113495 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Jun 95 p 3

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef and Alex Fishman in Washington]

[FBIS Translated Text] Syria has rejected a U.S. proposal, which is supported by Israel, to station U.S. troops on the Golan Heights following the Israeli withdrawal, and is demanding that UN forces be made responsible for supervising the security arrangements between the parties. This position was clarified by Hikmat al-Shihabi, the Syrian chief of staff, in preparatory talks held in Washington prior to yesterday's meeting with Israeli Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq.

The peace talks between the two delegations started yesterday at approximately 2100 Israeli time [1800 GMT] at Fort McNair, the home base of "the National War College of the United States" in southwest Washington, a short while after the arrival of the delegations' motorcades.

Immediately after entering the negotiating hall, the members of the two delegations shook hands. The meeting between the chiefs of staff was clearly cause for excitement. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Dennis Ross sat at the head of the table; the Israeli delegation sat to the Americans' left while the Syrians took up seats to their right with the interpreters facing them.

Christopher was the first to speak and welcomed the meeting: "We attach great significance to these discussions and hope to bridge the gaps despite the difficulties."

However, the Syrian position, as presented in Arabic by General al-Shihabi, put a damper on the secretary of state's festive words. An Israeli source said: "Al-Shihabi returned to the old positions. He brought the same positions presented when he met former Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq last December, and the atmosphere in the room became serious and glum.

Sources in Washington said that al-Shihabi presented the traditional Syrian demands, which include equal and mutual security arrangements and a full Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders.

Israeli Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq began by presenting the Israeli position in English. Sources in Washington stressed their impression that Israel was searching for a pragmatic solution. Israel wants to maintain a presence on Mount Hermon, as this answers its security needs, and is therefore prepared to permit the Syrians to establish two early warning stations of their own in the Galilee, near Ramim and Zefat. It was also reported that Israel demanded to maintain a presence in additional sites overlooking 'Emeq Hula and Lake Tiberias.

Shahaq's tone was relaxed. He called for an immediate initiation of joint patrols along the border, the setting up of a direct hot line to prevent misunderstandings as a result of training exercises. The Israeli chief of staff proposed to jointly examine a package of electronic early warning systems.

In the preparatory talks, Syria claimed that the Israeli positions were extreme and unacceptable. The Syrians accused the Israeli representatives of basing their positions on domestic political considerations and not on authentic security needs. The delegations will meet again tomorrow morning.

Senior political sources in Jerusalem yesterday tried to lower expectations prior to the chiefs of staff meeting and asserted that as far as Israel was concerned, reaching agreement on the establishment of joint working groups of military experts for a more detailed discussion of the principles of the security arrangements would constitute an achievement.

'Still Very Big' Gaps in Israeli-Syrian Talks

TA2806050895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 28 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Washington, the Israeli and Syrian chiefs of staff talks will resume later today. Chief of Staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq and his Syrian counterpart Hikmat al-Shihabi held their first round of talks yesterday. Qol Yisra'el's Washington correspondent says the talks lasted an hour more than originally expected. The correspondent adds that the gap between the two sides is still very big, and that an agreement was reached only on the issues of demilitarized zones, early warning, and thinning out of forces.

After the two chiefs of staff presented their positions on security arrangements, a discussion was held on related matters. The talks were described as serious and to the point. The Qol Yisra'el Washington correspondent says that President Clinton may meet with the two chiefs of staff.

Several thousand demonstrators protested at the Golani Junction against the chiefs of staff talks. Police arrested several of the protesters who tried to block the highway.

Reports of West Bank Withdrawal Agreement Denied

MM2706104995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Jun 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Fatah Official Denies Agreement Reached on Withdrawal From West Bank"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — A prominent Palestinian leader has denied published reports of a draft Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the Israeli forces' redeployment in the West Bank. He said that what has been published in this connection is not an agreement but, rather, differing Palestinian and Israeli positions on the withdrawal.

Commenting on what was termed a "draft Palestinian-Israeli agreement," Central Committee member Sakhr Habash said in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the differing positions result from the differences between the Palestinian and Israeli readings of the Oslo agreement. He pointed out that the Israeli reading aims to control the negotiating situation in order to achieve a final solution whose ceiling is self-rule.

He added that "the Zionists are trying to be clever as regards the issue of rescheduling the withdrawals from the West Bank after they have procrastinated for a full year."

'Urayqat Links Elections to Other Issues

MM2706152195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Jun 95 p 5

[Report by Mahir 'Uthman: "'Urayqat Tells AL-HAYAH: Outstanding Issues Are Redeployment, Jerusalem, and the Detainees"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Occupied Jerusalem — Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Palestinian local government and municipal affairs minister and chief negotiator with the Israelis on the issue of Palestinian elections, has stated that the election issue would not be in any way separate from the other issues included in the implementation of the second interim part of the joint declaration of principles (the Oslo agreement) signed in September 1993.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH yesterday, 'Urayqat said that the other issues "to which the elections are linked and which they are inseparable from" are the redeployment of Israeli forces outside the West Bank's cities, towns, and villages; judicial issues; security issues; economic issues; and transfer of civil and administrative powers.

He stressed that the Palestinian Authority [PA] does not accept the 1 July date as "a sword hanging over our heads." He added that "the way should be clear between the interim and final phases (of the peace process) with no outstanding issues or obstacles."

'Urayqat said in this connection that some matters were left outstanding in the past such as the crossings to the autonomy areas in Gaza and Jericho and the areas between them. He said that the Palestinian negotiators refuse to leave any issues outstanding this time.

The Palestinian official told AL-HAYAH that there are some difficulties in the negotiations on Jerusalem elections in connection with four points, namely voting, nomination for the Jerusalem constituency, election campaigns, and ballot boxes. He added: "There will be no agreement (on the elections) unless there is agreement regarding the Jerusalem constituency, just like the constituencies of Nabulus, Hebron, Dayr al-Balah and other places."

'Urayqat also spoke about another issue on which no agreement has been reached, namely the number of the future Palestinian (legislative) assembly members. "We have suggested 100 and we are telling them (the Israelis) that the number is an internal Palestinian affair." He added: "The other matters are ready."

He said that it was agreed that the election of the Palestinian president would be held independently from the legislative assembly elections, and "the president would select the members of his cabinet from the assembly members and others and then would submit his cabinet to the assembly for a vote of confidence. If it wins 51 percent of the votes it would become the executive authority and the assembly would be the legislative authority."

He added that the question of international supervision of the expected elections "has been fully resolved." He said that invitations to send observers have been sent to Egypt, the EU, the United States, Russia, Norway, Canada, Jordan, the OAU, the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC], and the nonaligned states. The European Union will coordinate the international supervision of the elections.

'Urayqat continued: "We explained to these parties that there are still gaps between us and the Israelis on three issues: redeployment of the Israeli forces, Jerusalem, and the release of the Palestinian detainees."

On the first issue, he said: "We want to negotiate a new agreement on the redeployment of Israeli forces. The declaration of principles speaks of withdrawal of these forces from the populated areas. Their departure should be on a one-way ticket and they should be replaced by Palestinian forces. After the elections the Israeli forces would be redeployed in specific areas where there is no (Palestinian) population."

In reply to a question by AL-HAYAH about the election date, 'Urayqat replied that that would depend on the timetable for the redeployment of the Israeli forces and would be determined in the light of the date of the withdrawal of these forces from the last Palestinian town or city. The elections, he said, are supposed to be held 22 days after that date. Giving an example, he said that if the Israeli forces withdrew from a certain area on the 7th of any particular month, and that happened to be the last area of withdrawal, then the elections would be held on the 29th of that particular month.

When told by AL-HAYAH that the Israeli foreign minister had said that the elections would be held "in the absence of the Israeli forces," as if hinting that the absence would be temporary and would be followed by some presence, he said: "Peres is talking about a cosmetic redeployment or a temporary withdrawal of the Army from the cities, but that is fully rejected."

PA Source: Israel Offers 'Symbolic' Withdrawal

TA2806052395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 28 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian Authority [PA] sources say that Israel has offered to carry out a symbolic withdrawal from one city by 1 July in the

West Bank as a confidence-building measure. This was reported by our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem:

[Ben-Menahem] Furayh Abu-Middayn, in charge of the justice portfolio in the PA, says that there is a good chance of attaining an agreement by 10 July, provided Israel hands over state-owned lands to the PA, allows a connection between the Palestinian towns and villages that will be under Palestinian sovereignty, and allow bringing additional 6,000 Palestinian policemen into the West Bank.

He added that Israel is refusing to hand over the justice authority to the Palestinians and will not even discuss this issue in the Cairo talks.

'Negotiators' Say PLO Agrees to Partial Withdrawal

JN2806074695 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Jun 95 pp 1, 7

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Occupied Jerusalem (Agencies)— Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat agreed to accept a partial Israeli troop pullback in the West Bank, to be followed by Palestinian elections and a further withdrawal, negotiators on both sides said Tuesday [27 June].

Mr. 'Arafat's decision helped resolve a major sticking point in the Israel-PLO talks. Until now, he insisted that elections would only be held once troops withdrew from all Palestinian towns and villages in the West Bank. Negotiators face a Saturday deadline for reaching agreement on a troop withdrawal and elections.

"Some thorny issues are being postponed really for the last minute," Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said Tuesday. "But I do hope that we shall reach a significant enough agreement so July 1 will not be an empty date."

Meanwhile, a general strike in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners who are fasting for freedom paralysed the occupied West Bank. [passage omitted]

The key remaining dispute is on an overall timetable for redeployment. The Palestinians want binding dates, while Israel reserves the right to halt the step-by-step withdrawal in case of fresh attacks on Israelis.

"There is a general agreement on a two-phase pullout (with elections in between), but we insist on the question of testing," said a senior Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A Palestinian negotiator said Tuesday that Mr. 'Arafat has asked Egyptian leaders to try to pressure Israel in the dispute over the timetable.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa called Mr. Peres early Monday and told him that "all issues must be resolved, even if it takes more time," said the negotiator, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The negotiator said that under the agreement taking shape, Israeli troops would first withdraw from the West Bank town of Janin, followed by a pullback from the towns of Nabulus, Tulkarm and Qalqiliyah.

The Israeli official, confirming that Janin would be first, said it would take several weeks for the army to complete the preparations for leaving the northern West Bank town.

In a nod to the Palestinians, Israel also has agreed to withdraw troops from a five-kilometre radius around each of the four towns, PLO officials said.

The pullout is to be completed by Nov. 15.

Once the last solider has left the four towns, the count-down would start for Palestinian elections, to be held within 22 to 35 days after completion of this first stage of withdrawal, the Palestinian negotiator said.

A second stage of withdrawal is scheduled for April and May, and would include the towns of Ramallah and Bethlehem.

Mr. Peres said Tuesday that the West Bank would be divided into areas of Palestinian control, Israeli control, and joint control.

Mr. Peres said that in the separate negotiations on elections, the two sides still disagreed on the size of the Palestinian self- rule council. The PLO wants an 80-member body, while Israel proposes 25.

Israeli and Palestinian delegations were meeting in Cairo on a transfer of civilian funcitons.

The Israeli delegation was headed by Aaron Shahor and went straight to a central Cairo hotel where talks were to be held.

The head of the PLO team, Jamil al-Tarifi, told reporters after the end of the latest round of talks on Thursday that they had failed to reach any results.

Mr. al-Tarifi said the Israelis were holding up the negotiations by insisting on retaining authority in eight spheres they are meant to hand over to the Palestinians by July 1.

"We have failed to reach any results in this round. We have not succeeded in achieving any agreement in all eight spheres." Mr. al-Tarifi said in reference to labour, insurance, energy, local government, postal services, trade and agriculture.

He said the Israelis were procrastinating to avoid meeting the deadline for the transfer.

Palestinian-Israeli Talks Open in Cairo

NC2706184095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1700 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA)—A third round of Palestinian-Israeli talks on the transfer of powers from the Israeli administration to the Palestinian National Authority in the West Bank opened in Cairo today.

The Palestinian side at this round is chaired by Jamil al-Tarifi, minister of civilian affairs in the self-rule authority while the Israeli side is led by General Aaron Shahor, coordinator of the government affairs in the occupied territories.

During this three-day round of talks, subcommittees will resume the discussion of the transfer of powers in eight areas—water, electricity, agriculture, insurance, postal service, local government, gas and energy, and statistics.

The two sides failed in the previous round which was held in Cairo last week to reach agreement on the transfer of powers in the aforementioned areas.

Sources See Interim Accord by 1 Jul

TA2806114495 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
28 Jun 95 p 5

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Political sources in Jerusalem yesterday reported that Israel and the Palestinians hope to announce "an agreement in principle" on an interim accord in the territories by the end of the week, and then to continue marathon negotiations in order to finalize the details of the agreement. The final stage of the negotiations will apparently take place in Washington.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST on 28 June, in a related report on page 1 by David Makovsky notes that "reports yesterday said the talks, now in their final stages, might be moved to Washington before the ceremony. However, Israeli sources dismissed this, saying that at most one issue might be left to resolve in Washington, but if so, only in deference to the US."]

The same sources reported new details on the emerging agreement for the first time yesterday: Even before elections are held, the Palestinians will be granted powers in the civil sphere over the entire West Bank population, including Hebron; the Palestinians will also receive full security responsibility over the four northern towns: Nabulus, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, and Janin, as well as partial responsibility for Bethlehem and Ramallah — all this even before elections are held. The sources said they also expect a "redeployment" in Hebron, albeit minimal in scope.

The sources reported that everyone will be permitted to use the bypass roads; however, it appears that the roads will be divided between Palestinian and Israeli traffic on different hours. In addition, there will be joint Palestinian-Israeli patrols in various areas outside the towns that will be turned over to the Palestinians.

The sources noted that "there was no chance" of completing the agreement by the 1 July target date. Despite the fact that marked progress was made in the discussions in recent days, the parties have still not come up with the "redeeming formulas" for several fundamental issues which remain in disagreement. "At the very best, the full agreement will be signed toward mid-July," a source involved in the negotiations said yesterday.

Political sources asserted yesterday that the Palestinians had presented more flexible stands with regard to the scope of redeployment that will be implemented prior to elections in the territories, but are continuing to demand a precise timetable for the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal. Israel, for its part, has informed the Palestinians of its intention to partially evacuate Bethlehem and Ramallah, even before elections are held in the territories.

Negotiations Continue

NC2806085695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0830 GMT 28 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 28 Jun (MENA)—The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the transfer of power from the Israeli Administration to the Palestinian Authority resumed here this morning.

Palestinian delegation sources said this sixth round of negotiations will continue discussion of several files that remained open when the fifth round concluded, particularly the files of water, electricity, agriculture, security, postal services, and municipalities. [passage omitted]

Multilateral Group Decides on Water Projects

TA2306123495 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 23 Jun 95

[Communicated by the Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The water committee — in the framework of the multilateral talks — concluded its discussions yesterday (Thursday), 22.06.95, in Amman.

For the first time, the Palestinians were represented by engineer Nabil Sharif, the Palestinian Authority Water Commissioner. The head of the Israeli delegation, former Agriculture Minister Avraham Katz-'Oz, said — in his opening speech — that in the next decade, an annual average of $200 million will be needed for the establishment of projects and to supply water to the countries of the Middle East.

During the discussions, a number of joint projects, worth a total investment of approximately $50 million, were proposed: The United States and the European Union will invest approximately $2.5 million to establish a data bank for the Palestinians. Austria will invest approximately $3 million to equalize brackish water irrigation methods. The Netherlands is examining an investment of $7 million to build a dam in Nahal Besor/Wadi 'Aza, in order to enrich the Gaza Strip's aquifer. A regional desalination center, worth $30 million, is being planned in Oman. The United States, Japan, and Israel will invest approximately $5 million to treat waste water in small communities, reduce water loss in municipal systems, and desalinate brackish water.

Egypt

Shooting Incident Reported on Border With Sudan

NC2806084495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0836 GMT 28 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 28 Jun (MENA) — A responsible source stated today that as an Egyptian patrol was patrolling near one of our southern border posts last night, it came under fire from some Sudanese individuals. The patrol returned fire. The incident resulted in some slight injuries on both sides.

The injured Egyptians and Sudanese were immediately evacuated by air for treatment in a military hospital in Cairo.

Investigation Continuing To Find Attack Culprits

NC2706152495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Addis Ababa, 27 Jun (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the Ethiopian authorities are continuing their efforts to reveal the identity of the culprits who carried out the attack on President Husni Mubarak. He expressed the hope that the investigations will produce satisfactory results soon and that the criminals will be arrested.

To a question about his talks today with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that President 'Arafat was scheduled to meet with President Mubarak during the summit, but circumstances prevented this from happening. He said the talks dealt with the developments pertaining to the Arab-Israeli negotiations in light of the previous meetings held with Sa'ib 'Urayqat on the issue of elections and with Jamil al-Tarifi on the issue of the transfer of powers.

Musa said that he will report to President Mubarak on the outcome of his talks with President 'Arafat.

'Mastermind' Said Identified

NC2806052895 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 28 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ethiopian authorities have announced that they have identified the mastermind behind the sinful attack on President Husni Mubarak the day before yesterday — a young man named Muhammad Saraj. [Ethiopian] television has shown a photo of the young man, who is described as an Arab. The Ethiopian authorities have announced a big reward for anyone with information on the remaining assailants, as part of its continuing investigations in this regard.

Ethiopian investigators yesterday began questioning eight people suspected of being involved in the attempt on the life of President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa the day before yesterday.

REUTERS reports that Ethiopian police have made progress that will help to identify the attackers. No official arrest warrants have been issued. Ethiopian radio appealed to hospitals and clinics to notify the authorities of any person being treated for wounds following the discovery of bloodstains on one of the cars seized. This discovery has led investigators to suspect that at least one of the fugitive attackers was hurt in the operation.

Armed Forces Renews Allegiance to Mubarak

NC2806082695 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 0725 GMT 28 Jun 95

[Remarks exchanged during a meeting between a delegation of members of the Armed Forces Higher Council, led by Defense Minister Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, and President Husni Mubarak in the Republican Office in Heliopolis — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Tantawi] [Words indistinct] congratulate you on your safety and on your safe return. God wishes you no harm. In those moments in Addis Ababa, the great Egyptian people and their Armed Forces proved the depth of their love, gratitude, and loyalty to their leader and commander. All the Armed Forces congratulate your excellency on your safe return and wish you health and happiness so that you can continue to lead Egypt to the shore of safety for the sake of democracy and prosperity, God willing.

[Mubarak] Thank you. [Words indistinct] we are protected by the men of the Armed Forces. The Republican Guard personnel are from the Armed Forces —officers on active service. They performed very well. I had confidence in our Armed Forces and they did their duty. The Ethiopian president was deeply pained; there were many presidents there. He was very upset and nervous. I told him it was fine because there are always cases of straying individuals. My greetings and thanks to all the men of the Armed Forces. I am not unaware of what the Armed Forces are doing for Egypt, because I was a member of the forces. I know what we are doing for the people, that we are working for the sake of the country and defending it and its fate against any foreign aggression.

My gratitude and greetings to our brothers in the Armed Forces.

[Tantawi] They are proud that your excellency came from their ranks. The Armed Forces will remain proud of you and we in the Armed Forces renew our allegiance to you. We will always live up to the expectations of the supreme commander. The Egyptian people [words indistinct].

[Mubarak] Thank you.

Condemns 'Treacherous' Attack

NC2806095595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0825 GMT 28 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 28 Jun (MENA) — The Armed Forces Higher Council has condemned the sinful and criminal attempt by treacherous and misguided hands against Egypt in the person of its leader President Husni Mubarak, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces.

Following a meeting this morning chaired by Field Marshal Husayn Tantawi, commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, the council stressed that the treacherous hands that are trying to harm Egypt will turn against them. The council reiterated its backing for President Mubarak, adherence to his courageous and prudent leadership, and the preparedness of the Armed Forces personnel to sacrifice their lives to preserve the national march and the sanctities of the nation.

The following is the text of the statement issued by the Armed Forces Higher Council following its meeting today chaired by Field Marshal Tantawi:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful:

All the Armed Forces personnel have followed the sinful and criminal attempt committed by treacherous and misguided hands against Egypt in the person of its leader President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces. The Armed Forces lived these moments and shared with the people their overwhelming emotions to welcome the return of their leader safely with God's care so that he might continue the march of dedication and achievement and remain a symbol embodying every sense of patriotism and rational and wise leadership.

While deploring this sinful act committed by a misguided clique of treason and ignorance, the Armed Forces Higher Council emphasizes that the hands of treason that are trying to harm Egypt will turn against the perpetrators. The council would like to convey to Supreme Commander President Husni Mubarak the true feelings of the Armed Forces personnel, their congratulations on his safety, and their adherence to his leadership, out of recognition for the good he does the country and so that he might continue to raise the banners of peace and remain a symbol embodying every sense of heroism.

The Armed Forces Higher Council praises God for sparing Egypt and its people evil and preserving their commander and leader, who faced the situation with the bravery of fighters and the faith of believers. God almighty has repulsed the aggressors, some of whom were duly punished for their sins at the hands of Egypt's valiant sons.

The Armed Forces Higher Council voices its support for Supreme Commander President Husni Mubarak, adherence to his prudent and courageous leadership, and the preparedness of the Armed Forces personnel to sacrifice their lives to preserve our national march and the sanctities of the nation and to remain vigilant to guard the homeland; maintains its territorial integrity; and safeguards its constitutional legitimacy so that Egypt might proceed toward stability and development for the welfare of its people. Such malicious and irresponsible acts by terrorists will never change our principles or pan-Arab goals.

May God preserve Egypt, its people, and whoever enters it, repel the schemes of those who harbor evil against it, and guide the leader of its national march, President Husni Mubarak, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, on the road of justice and victory.

Mubarak Speaks to Muslim, Christian Clergymen

NC2806102395 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic
0921 GMT 28 Jun 95

[Address by President Husni Mubarak to Muslim and Christian clergymen at the Presidential Office in Cairo — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: I am happy to feel that people are behind me. [applause and cheers] I am happy to meet with you as Egyptians: Muslims, Christians, or other religions. We must remain one hand and united under the umbrella of Egypt, which shelters and protects us. I believe in fate and I have never been afraid of fate. Death is something that we will all meet; We must not be scared of it or tremble because of it. What happened has given me strength to continue working to serve this people and this nation without bias. This has been my nature since I was young. I love justice, and do not want injustice. I follow the rules and debate with those in charge until I reach the right decision always, at the appropriate time.

Thank you. I cannot match the eloquent words I have heard from all the clergymen, primarily the al-Azhar imam, [Coptic patriarch] Pope Shanudah, His Eminence Shaykh al-Sha'rawi, His Eminence Shaykh al-Ghazali, and all the brothers. We are all close to each other and I seek advice in what they say. Sometimes I even consult with them over issues. May God guide us all. Thank you. [applause]

Mubarak Contacted by World Leaders on Attack

Clinton Expresses 'Shock'

NC2806053295 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 28 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak has received a telephone call from U.S. President Bill Clinton, who congratulated him on his escape from the criminal and terrorist incident to which he was subjected. President Clinton told President Mubarak that the American people appreciate his excellency as an Arab leader who has recorded historic achievements for his people, earning him the respect and appreciation of the world.

President Clinton noted that the United States joins the world in confronting terrorism, which threatens all countries and the independence of their peoples.

President Clinton sent a cable to President Mubarak expressing his shock over the attack in Addis Ababa. But he was relieved that God's care spared the president harm. In his cable, President Clinton stressed that help would be provided to identify those responsible for this terrorist action and bring them to justice.

Russia's Yeltsin Denounces Attempt

NC2706130595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin. In the message, President Yeltsin gave his and the entire Russian people's heartfelt congratulations to the president on his safety and the safety of all members of his delegation. He also denounced the treacherous terrorist attempt to undermine the Egyptian people's security and terrorize them.

Former Sudanese Leader Offers Praise

NC2706132395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA) — Former Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri has described President Husni Mubarak as a symbol of the Arab nation and unity between the African and the Arab people.

In statements following a meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, Numayri said he came to give his congratulations and those of all free Sudanese to the president on his safe return to Cairo after the failed attack on his motorcade in Addis Ababa. Numayri said: I personally believe that every citizen in Egypt is President Husni Mubarak.

Asked about accusations by some Sudanese groups that Hasan al-Turabi's [National Islamic] Front is behind the incident, Numayri said: I cannot confirm this, but it is known that al-Turabi's Front is a terrorist front and that it works with all kinds of terrorism. The evidence, he said, is the weapons seized a few days ago; these weapons are smuggled into Egypt from Sudan. Moreover, Numayri added, terrorist training takes place in Sudan, and the Sudanese Government has great interest in extremists and it is totally isolated from the Arab brothers, the Africans, and the rest of the world.

Numayri expressed the regret of all Sudanese for the failed act of aggression on President Mubarak's motorcade in Addis Ababa.

Asked about his expectations regarding Egyptian-Sudanese relations, he said the people of Egypt and Sudan are one people, and relations between them will not change, as President Mubarak is extremely wise.

He noted that several million Sudanese live in Egypt, finding full respect and hospitality from the people of Egypt.

Concluding, Numayri said relations between Egypt and Sudan will always improve, especially because Sudanese forces will work to get rid of the regime in Sudan.

President Mubarak Receives 'Arafat

NC2806073095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 28 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak today received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in the Presidential Office. 'Arafat congratulated him on his escape from the attack on his motorcade in Addis Ababa.

The meeting was attended by Zuhdi al-Qidrah, the Palestinian ambassador in Cairo; Nabil 'Amr, a Fatah Revolutionary Committee member; 'Arafat's press adviser, Nabil Abu-Rudaynah; and media adviser Marwan Kanafani.

Al-Baz Sees Off 'Arafat

NC2806090395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 28 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 28 Jun (MENA) — Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo this morning following a visit to Egypt of several hours during which he met President Husni Mubarak and congratulated him on his escape from the terrorist attack in Addis Ababa the day before yesterday.

'Arafat was seen off at the airport by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

In a predeparture statement, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat said he came to congratulate President Husni Mubarak on his escape from the treacherous attack on his motorcade. [passage omitted]

Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, who saw President 'Arafat off, said: We cannot accuse anyone, but are awaiting the outcome of investigations by the Ethiopian authorities with the help of Egyptian experts there.

Activity on Stock Market Returns to Normal

NC2606172895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 26 Jun (MENA) — Dealings at the Egyptian stock market stabilized today after they had been affected for a while following the news of the failed attempt on President Mubarak's life.

'Abd-al-Hamid Ibrahim, head of the market operations sector at the Security Market Authority said activity in the market is now normal. [passage omitted]

Commentary Promises Action Against 'Terrorism'

NC2706143195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Jun 95

[Commentary by Samir 'Abd-al-Tawwab: "The Egyptian Will's Ability and Strength"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Egyptian will has been put to the test so many times. The strength and ability of this Egyptian will, which mainly relies on the strength of Almighty God and the firmness of this nation — leadership, government, and people — has been proven so many times. The world has been certain so many times that the Egyptian people are able at each test to be united in the same pot melted by history, events, and challenges.

The iniquitous attack on the motorcade of our President Mubarak near the Addis Ababa airport is one of the challenges and tests to our people, all our people from the helm of leadership down to the smallest and simplest Egyptian citizen. At the same time, it asserts the true attributes, originality, and ability of this nation to stand united and not be penetrated by any adventurer, malicious person, or agent, or by any party protecting and financing terrorism.

Behind the occasional person are mean motives and malicious, cheap goals, all of which aim to weaken Egypt and diminish its abilities and prevent it from performing its historic national, regional, and international, as well as its Arab, African, and Islamic role.

Arab, African, and Islamic Egypt has suffered many such challenges, dangers, and plots and managed by the strength, ability, and firmness of its domestic front and political leadership to overcome all these attempts and root out the dens of terrorism and treachery. Arab Egypt has also managed to achieve success in all hardships.

This time, in the face of the cowardly attempted attack on Egypt's president and delegation to the African summit, Egypt is also able, more than ever before, to be stronger and firmer. Egypt's will is strong and vigorous and this time Egypt will not keep silent regarding what happened because it affects Egypt and its leader, because it targets Egypt's stability, because it seeks to undermine the process of progress and construction during which we have covered long and great strides, and because it wants to halt the peace process which aims to end the conflict in the region and transform it into an active region in all political, economic, industrial, agricultural, and cultural fields.

This time Egypt will not be inactive toward what happened because God saved Egypt's leader and people from the iniquitous attempt. This time Egypt will confront all forms and shapes of terrorism with decisiveness and resolve. It will track down the instigators of this criminal act to discover the perpetrators and those who are behind it, be they individuals, groups, forces, or states, to inflict on them a deterrent, severe punishment in preservation of human rights and security everywhere, in defense of the gains Egypt has made, and in protection of the peace process of the Arab region and the Middle East as well as of the other close and distant regions.

Egypt will do all this out of its belief that right and justice must prevail and the firm and strong Egyptian will cannot accept anyone transgressing Egypt or Egypt's leader in any way. It also cannot agree to lose the huge economic and social gains that have become one of its rights. This is especially true because the era of freedom and democracy in Egypt is prospering and progressing, heralding a more developed future. Egypt cannot go backward as it builds a modern Egypt, the Egypt of the 21st century.

O Egypt, may God you save from the plots of the conspirators and malicious people. O Mubarak, may God save you from treachery and the treacherous.

Officer, Conscript Killed by 'Terrorists' in Asyut

NC2706135195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1215 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Asyut, 27 Jun (MENA) — Captain Salah 'Abd-al-Hamid, assistant director of the Abu Tij security center, and Conscript Yusuf 'Abd-al-Zahir were killed in Asyut, Upper Egypt, this morning when unidentified gunmen opened fire on them and then ran off. Two other conscripts and nine civilians were also injured in the shooting.

The terrorists ambushed the officer and the soldiers and indiscriminately opened fire on them. A number of citizens were injured during the incident.

Major General Majdi al-Basyuni, director of the Asyut security department and other security commands, inspected the scene. The prosecution has started an investigation.

'Security Source': Suspect Detained

NC2806085495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1625 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA) — A responsible security source at the Interior Ministry has said that the incident in Abu Tij city in Asyut Governorate this morning resulted in the death of Captain Salah 'Abd-al-Hamid Nasr of the Abu Tij center and conscripts 'Ali Yusuf 'Abd-al-Zahir and Sab' Makram Mamluk.

The security source added that the incident also resulted in the injury of two conscripts and six citizens, including a woman and three children, when they were fired at randomly. The security agencies arrested the culprit and seized the weapon used in the attack.

The source said when a ferry from Markaz Sahil Salim arrived at Abu Tij at about 0900 today, a man, identified as Kamal Mahmud Badawi, fired random pistol shots at the citizens and the guards at the pier.

The source added that conscripts Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Azim and 'Abdallah Jum'ah; citizens 'Abduh Jabir Ahmad and 'Abduh Muhammad 'Amir; a woman named Zaynab Khalaf; two young boys Rumani Yusuf and Muhammad Khalaf; and Hibah Mahmud 'Ata, a young girl, were wounded as a result.

The security agencies arrested the culprit and seized the weapon used in the attack. The source said the political affiliation of the culprit is unknown. The security agencies are continuing to investigate the incident.

The wounded were immediately taken to the hospital and criminal laboratory experts went to the scene of the incident to investigate. The Prosecution Office has been notified to investigate.

2 Americans Killed in Sinai Reportedly Soldiers

TA2706141395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1400 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Two American soldiers serving with the MFO [Multinational Force and Observers] have been killed in the Sinai. Their vehicle drove over a mine north of Sharm al-Shaykh.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 27 June reports that "two American tourists were killed today in the southern Sinai when their car drove over a mine planted there during the Israeli-Egyptian confrontation. Security sources noted that the tragedy took place some 40 km north of Sharm-al-Shaykh. Two other people were seriously wounded in the mine explosion."]

Libya

Qadhdhafi Interviewed on Lockerbie, Fundamentalism

LD2706235395 Rome RAI Due Television Network in Italian 2030 GMT 27 Jun 95

["Exclusive" interview with Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by correspondents Enzo Carra and Gianni Barcelloni in al-Qadhdhafi's tent in Libya; date not given; interview interspersed with commentary by station commentators — recorded; al-Qadhdhafi speaks in Arabic with superimposed Italian translation; translated from the Italian]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondents] We are where bombs were dropped in 1986. We want to ask Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, who was the main target of that bombing, what mood Libya is in today. Colonel, could you tell us how you are going to solve the Lockerbie problem, other than handing in the two Libyan suspects?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The solution does not lie in the hands of Libya, but in the hands of the United States and Britain. These two countries do not want to solve the problem. They are not worried about the victims' families. They are only interested in politics.

They link Lockerbie to the Middle East issue. We, instead, we are the only ones, together with the victims' families, who can look at the Lockerbie case from the correct viewpoint. This means the killer has to be found in order for him to stand trial.

Libya has no proposals to put forward, simply because it has nothing to do with the Lockerbie case. No Libyan passengers were on the plane. The plane did not fly over Libyan territory. It did not take off from Libya and was not bound for Libya. That plane was coming from southeast Asia, flew over Europe, and was bound for the United States. Then it crashed in northern Europe. In spite of everything, when Libya was pointed to as the one responsible for Lockerbie, we did not reject the accusations. When they asked us if the two Libyans involved in the case were in Libya, we said yes, because their names are included in our registers. We could have said no in that case. We could have said they were not in Libya. Instead we said okay, fine, let's have a trial. But we asked for evidence of their involvement. They refused to give us the evidence and, subsequently, they asked us to hand in the two suspects. Then, we asked the two suspects to go to the United States, but they said they did not want to go. They said they were prepared to go to any country but the United States and Britain, because these two countries are hostile to our country and there are no diplomatic relations between them and Libya. A country cannot be prosecutor and judge at the same time. So Libya, as a country, is blameless. I wonder how can they possibly impose sanctions on us if this is our position.

The thing is the they [the United States and Britain] want the world's public opinion to be diverted from the 1986 attack against Libya. This is where we have to test the credibility of the United Nations and the Security Council. We want to find out whether the Security Council is truly an international institution or whether it only acts in the interest of certain countries. Therefore, those responsible for the 1986 attack also have to stand trial.

[Correspondents] Can the EU play a role on your behalf in the Lockerbie case?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Of course. Within the UN Security Council, the EU could put forward some proposals. I think Europe was colonized by the United States after the Second World War. Things will not go the right way until Europe has freed itself from U.S. hegemony. If we had to be colonized, we might as well have kept the German colonization, that would have been better than the U.S.. [passage omitted]

Now that the Warsaw Pact has been disbanded, Europe should quit NATO. NATO should become a purely U.S. force. Europe takes part in the defense of peace, but against whom? We think it is against us. The Arab and Islamic peoples feel NATO's cannons are pointed toward us. We think we are in the same situation we were in at the end of last century. The same procedures are being carried out in order to occupy our countries. We read history, and we understand it.

There is a colonialistic plan against us at present. But remember that it will result in the destruction of European interests and of Europe itself. This is the U.S. plot. [passage omitted]

[Correspondents] The peace process between Israel and Palestine is under way, though with many difficulties.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] That is a big swindle for both Jews and Palestinians. The whole world is responsible for it. They want to get rid of this problem once and for all and they completely ignore the future of the two peoples.

I have nothing to do with this swindle. Historically, the world is against the Jews and it now wants to get rid of them. The Palestinian people are the victims of this plan. There is no way out of the problem except with a solution similar to the one adopted in the case of South Africa.

It is a swindle. It is not a solution.

You are only dealing with one group, the Fatah group. That is not the PLO, it is only a part of the PLO. It was not by chance that 'Arafat, head of Fatah, was appointed PLO president. But he is acting on behalf of Fatah and not of the PLO. He only uses the name of PLO.

As you know, 10 factions are outside the peace deal. They are the fighting factions, such as Hamas and Jihad. These are the factions that are truly fighting. It is with them that you have to deal.

[Correspondents] You attacked Islamic fundamentalists recently. You even called them dogs and servants of the West and the United States. Do you condemn religious Islamic fundamentalism or their terrorism? For years, you were considered a friend, if not a protector, of a number of terrorist groups.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I condemn terrorism in all its forms and wherever it comes from, but I do not condemn fundamentalism. On the contrary, our revolution supported fundamentalists because fundamentalism is a good thing.

Unfortunately, Europe deliberately mistakes fundamentalism for terrorism in order to blame Islam. I am on the side of fundamentalists, but I am against terrorism. In Egypt, Algeria, Syria, and Tunisia there are terrorist groups and fundamentalist groups. Some of them resort to violence, clandestine operations, and bombs. These groups are full of rage, nay, they are heretical groups. They say they do not believe in today's Islam.

Armed groups often try to establish contact with us, but if their governments do not agree with it, we cannot open up a dialogue with them, because they are accused of terrorism, and our preliminary condition for the opening of dialogue is that they give up terrorist actions. These armed groups want to show that they are against the Western presence, which, in the mind of Islamists, refers back to the notion of colonialism, hegemony, and economic exploitation.

This explains the attacks against any form of Western presence in the streets of Egypt and Algeria, as well as in some Arab and Islamic countries and in Pakistan. This phenomenon will increase until the West puts a stop to its behavior, until the West begins to respect the Islamic world and decides to live and cooperate with it on an equal footing. Otherwise, violence will erupt against the West. [passage omitted]

[Correspondents] Let's now move on to Bosnia. You said you feared a global war of religion, between north and south, Islam and Christianity.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] First of all, the war is not limited to former Yugoslavia. Other countries have intervened thus widening the conflict and creating the present situation.

Germany, the United States, Russia, and all their allies intervened. Islamic countries, puppets of the United States, also intervened. They thought the United States was going to defend Islam. Thus, the world split into two parts and the war in Yugoslavia involved more countries.

I only hope Yugoslavia becomes united again. For the Muslims as well. The right status is that of being citizens of Yugoslavia within a federal Yugoslavia.

I do not really believe in the future of any Islamic country in Europe. I think Christian Europe long ago decided that there should be no Islamic country inside Europe. This is why it will destroy small Islamic states, in the way Andalusia and Sicily were destroyed.

Now it is the turn of the Muslims in Yugoslavia, Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia, and Turkey. Therefore I say the destiny of the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina is to remain part of a united Yugoslavia, while continuing to practice their religion.

[Correspondents] On 21t June 95 Europe's largest mosque will be inaugurated in Rome. Christianity is continuing its dialogue with other monotheistic religions. Would you like to send a message to the Arab heads of state that will be in Rome on that occasion?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] That event for me is an example of demagogy. [passage omitted]

[Correspondents] Relations with Italy have been quite bad for half a century. After the 1956 agreement, it seemed as if a solution could be found. Why not call on the Libyan people to start reconciliation with the Italian people? In Libya 7 October is still a celebration, to mark the day when Italians were thrown out of Libya.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We have to find a solution and look to the future. My country is still full of Italian and German mines. These mines will keep killing us. They will kill our children and the generations to come.

I was wounded by an Italian mine [he shows scars] in my arm and in my back. Italy has no credibility because it does not respect the agreements it signs. Italy owes the Libyan people war reparations. Otherwise there will be serious consequences in future.

Germany gave reparations to the Jews. Italy has to do the same with Libya. [Former Prime Minister Giulio] Andreotti came to this very tent and signed an agreement with me. But then the agreement was completely disregarded. [passage omitted]

Spanish Envoy Asked To Explain Remarks on Israel

LD2406211095 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has summoned the Spanish charge d'affaires and informed him of its amazement, and demanded explanations regarding the statement made by the Spanish secretary of state for international cooperation after his return from a visit to the Israeli enemy which was broadcast by London radio [BBC] on 17 June, in which he revealed a tripartite plan currently being examined by the Israelis and Spain, and Tunisia.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity [Jum'ah al-Fazzani] has held intensive talks with Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia pointing out the gravity of the persistence of Western circles in practicing misinformation and spreading lies to undermine relations among brothers.

Following that, Tunisia denied the Western-Israeli allegations, stressing that there was absolutely no truth in the existence of such contacts and arrangements, and that those spreading them intended to poison inter-Arab relations and plant strife and schism.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity, who took part in the Arab Maghreb foreign ministers' meeting in Algiers on 18 June, discussed the issue and requested explanations about the allegations made by Western media regarding the extent of the penetration Israelis claim they have made in the Arab Maghreb countries in a way that threatened their security, performance and future, and discussed attempts made by NATO to contact the Arab Maghreb union states regarding issues which constitute a threat to Arab national security.

The memorandum of the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity to the Arab Maghreb union's foreign ministers council included the ramifications of the colonialist-crusader schemes against the Arab nation. On the basis of that, the council decided to reaffirm the union's member states' care for the common interest within the context of mutual trust, safeguarding the collective national security and exchanging information.

Yugoslav Delegation Visits, Discusses 'Objectives'

LD2506185895 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1850 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, June 25 (TANJUG) — Restoration of peace, lifting of the U.N. sanctions and Yugoslavia's re-admittance to international forums are the main political objectives of the Socialist Party of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Yugoslav official Borisav Jovic said in talks with Libyan officials Sunday [25 June].

Jovic, who is vice-president of the Socialist Party of Serbia and the Yugoslav Parliament Foreign Policy Committee, heads a Yugoslav delegation on a several-day visit to Libya.

Jovic informed officials of the Libyan Movement of Revolutionary Committees about Yugoslavia's efforts to help reach peace in the territory of the former Yugoslavia through negotiations and on the basis of equality.

The Libyan officials said their country opposed any instigation of religious hatred.

Libya believes that different civilizations should open a dialogue on fundamental issues and build mutual trust, they said.

They added that a dialogue was necessary between Islamic and Christian Orthodox countries which had common cultural and civilizational traits.

Libya highly values Yugoslavia's independent, consistent and constructive policy, they said.

The Libyan officials said that an international plot had broken up the former Yugoslav federation.

There is an urgent need for peace models to be worked out for the former Yugoslav republics of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, they said and added that it should be followed by restoration of economic cooperation and integration in the entire territory of the former Yugoslavia.

Sudan

Denials, Accusations, Comments on Mubarak Attack

Al-Bashir Denies Involvement

NC2806124195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1230 GMT 28 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Addis Ababa, 28 Jun (MENA)—Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir has denied his country was involved in the attack on President Husni Mubarak's motorcade in Addis Ababa two days ago. He expressed his profound regret over the incident.

At a news conference today on the sidelines of the 31st African summit in the Ethiopian capital, the Sudanese leader denounced this and any other kind of violence. He said this action runs counter to the teachings of Islam.

Al-Turabi Denies Connection

MM2706094395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Jun 95 p 3

[Report by Imam Muhammad Imam: "Al-Turabi Surprised at Mention of His Name in Connection With Attack On Mubarak"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London — Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the Arab Islamic People's Congress [and leader of the Sudanese National Islamic Front], has announced that he has nothing to do with Sudan's foreign relations. He said that "these policies are defined by the government through its Foreign Ministry. I do not hold any executive or constitutional post to enable me to interfere in such matters. Thus there was no reason for Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to mention my name or Sudan's at his news conference following the abortive attempt on his life in Addis Ababa. Maybe the mention of my name and Sudan's was intended to link the incident with Sudan and al-Turabi."

Dr. Hasan al-Turabi told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone from Khartoum that: The attackers, as they appeared to eyewitnesses, did not look like Ethiopians, hence they do not look like Sudanese in terms of their color. And as mentioned in the statement issued by the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry, the persons who attacked the Egyptian president's motorcade in Addis Ababa yesterday are of Arab origin. So the incident seems to be an Arab fight directed against one of the other Arab African leaders who went to participate in the African summit conference in Addis Ababa or against the Egyptian president, regardless of whether the assailants are from his country or from another country.

Responding to what President Mubarak said in the news conference, which Egyptian television transmitted yesterday, namely that "Sudan is seeking to achieve rapprochement with him, but Dr. al-Turabi is doing something else," al-Turabi said that "these are relations between governments and should be handled at the official political level. Whatever my responsibility before the popular forces, I have no influence or control over the government, hence I cannot interfere in its foreign policies, since it takes account of international foreign considerations. That is, unless the mention of my name is intended to tacitly associate Sudan with the incident." [passage omitted]

Opposition Figure Blames 'Regime'

NC2706161795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA) — Faruq Abu-'Isa, former Sudanese foreign minister and official spokesman for the Sudanese National Democratic Grouping, has accused the Sudanese regime of being involved in the attack on the motorcade of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa yesterday.

In a statement issued today, Abu-'Isa said that although the final results of the investigations being conducted by the Ethiopian authorities have not emerged yet, the circumstances, current reports, and the information possessed by the groups all indicate that members of the Islamic Front's regime are involved in this criminal action. The statement confirms that a team of commanders and members of the Sudanese security and intelligence apparatus has been in Addis Ababa for the past 10 days. The team is led by Major General al-Fatih 'Urwah, security adviser to Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir and to chief of the military intelligence Muhammad Ahmad al-Dabi.

The statement points out that Maj. Gen. al-Fatih 'Urwah is a security expert in the affairs of Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa. He was Sudan's consul in Addis Ababa between 1982 and 1984, when he was expelled by the Ethiopian authorities. 'Urwah was in charge for the transfer of the Falashas to Israel via Sudan. He is currently in charge of planning terrorist operations in the Horn of Africa, the statement added.

Official: 'Dangerous' to Region

EA2706120495 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ladies and gentlemen: Following the reports about the failed attempt yesterday to assassinate Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din Atabani, the minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, held a news conference in which he voiced Sudan's regret and its condemnation of the incident. He also responded to hints about Sudan's involvement in planning the incident. Here are remarks by the minister of state in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

[Begin recording] [Atabani] We are monitoring developments in the investigation into the incident and the effects of the investigation in view of the fact that it is a very dangerous incident for the relations of the countries in the region. First of all, naturally, we feel deep regret that the Egyptian president was subjected to this incident during the convening of an important meeting gathering the sons of the African continent. We have expressed our regret in (?all) our statements. We are following this with concern because we cannot rule out the possibility of the incident (?being used) to create discord in the region's relations, particularly in light of statements hinting at the possibility of Sudan being behind the attempt. We of course reject this, we strongly reject it, we even reject [word indistinct]. The incident was prepared by a certain quarter according to a special report.

Naturally, we shall not be hasty about this [word indistinct]. We should wait to see what the investigations reveal. We are eager for all parties concerned to adopt the same attitude and not be hasty in judging events. We are eager to frustrate the designs of those who want to attack relations in the region.

[Unidentified correspondent] Actually, Dr. Ghazi, some quarters have continuously been propagating Sudan's involvement [words indistinct].

[Atabani] This is normal. We are accustomed to the fact that some people ascribe violent events to Sudan. But this has never been proved. As I said, these attempts divert people from the real meaning — the real motives behind the incident, and they seek to blame Sudan. In the statements by the Egyptian president in Cairo there were implicit hints that Sudan had perhaps participated in this incident. Of course this is a thing we understand under the circumstances of the shock which accompanied the incident. We regard it as absolutely incorrect. We reject it absolutely, strongly (?reject) it.

This is because Sudan has no interest [words indistinct]. This was prepared [words indistinct] to attack relations in the region. [Words indistinct] until now it has not been proved — it has been said that they were hired through the Sudanese — this is not constructive. [Words indistinct] there are Sudanese who are working against the interest of their country. They are at the beck and call of states hostile to Sudan, perhaps also with the aim of involving Sudan [words indistinct]. We should point out that there are some who link Sudan's name with issues of terrorism, but they have never succeeded in proving their accusations even against Sudanese individuals they have accused.

Even if we suppose that Sudan participated — [word indistinct] — there were Sudanese meeting recently in Asmara who declared the legitimacy of military action against Sudan and said they would work to damage Sudan's relations with its neighbors. Indeed, there are big powers which declared through their senior state officials that they would work to spoil relations between Sudan and its neighbors. It is possible that they find Sudanese to use for this. I do not want to hasten to say anything before the outcome of investigations. It has not been proved that Sudan was involved or that a Sudanese was hired [word indistinct] or contributed anything to the incident. I want to say if anything like this has been confirmed it is not evidence of anything. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

Minister Views 'Motives'

EA2706194095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Sudanese Government today again condemned the abortive incident of the attempted assassination to which Egyptian President Husni Mubarak was subjected to yesterday in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. The Egyptian authorities have been officially notified of this. Sudan expressed its regret at the incident.

Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din Atabani, minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, pointed out at the regular forum of the ministry today the unwise implications being made about the incident. On the issue of analyses being made on the motives for the attack which, if they do not follow a course of perspicacity, could lead to the same results as were intended in this incident. [sentence as heard] Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din Atabani condemned references made in statements by the Egyptian president, which included hints at the likelihood of the existence of connections between Sudan and the incident of his attempted assassination, which he continues to repeat.

Atabani affirmed that Sudan would make efforts to present this incident from affecting the relationship between the two countries. He explained that Sudan had always been a supporter, an ally and a defender of Egypt and its borders. He affirmed the need to contain this issue and to deal with it objectively. Dr. Atabani said Sudan was eager to thwart designs aimed at impairing its relations with its neighbors and other states. He affirmed his confidence in the Ethiopian Government which, on the basis of neutrality, would take charge of establishing the circumstances surrounding the incident. He said there was a new axis between the United States, the Israeli enemy, and the Eritrean regime to destabilize the security and stability of the region. He affirmed that this strategy was targeting Sudan.

Tunisia

Outlawed Islamic Movement Leader Advocates Dialogue

BR2606134695 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 26 Jun 95 p 6

[Interview with Rached Gannouchi, "leader of al-Nahdah, outlawed Tunisian Islamic movement," by Guido Olimpio: "Gannouchi: Help to Tyrants Favors Extremism;" place and date not given; first paragraph is CORRIERE DELLA SERA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] His followers consider him a cleric. According to the Tunisian authorities, he is worse than the devil. He likes to describe himself as a thinker. Rached Gannouchi, 55, is the leader of al-Nahdah, the Islamic movement outlawed by the Tunis regime. After being arrested in 1987, then released the following year thanks to an amnesty, the "sheikh" opted for exile. First in Sudan — where he became one of the organizers, together with Hasan al-Turabi, of the Islamic International — and then in London .

[Olimpio] How do you judge the political situation in Tunisia?

[Gannouchi] I will explain it to you in the words of the Socialist, Ibrahim Haider. "Politics in Tunisia is dead; the language of security dominates everywhere... The police are everywhere; they dominate the press, the parties, the banks, and even sport." On the pretext of dealing with the fundamentalists, they sent 30,000 oppositionists to prison, though according to Amnesty International there are only 12,000 and according to the authorities only 2,000. Torture is used in the prisons and police stations: At least 60 prisoners have died under torture.

[Olimpio] What strategy does your movement pursue?

[Gannouchi] We have refused to respond to the repression with force and have armed ourselves with patience instead. Of course the path of violence is tempting, but it is dangerous because you do not know where it will end. We have moved on from passive resistance to the systematic denunciation of violations and to political action. Within this context a national opposition front is emerging that gathers together all the democratic groupings, including the Islamic ones.

[Olimpio] Is it possible for an Islamic movement to join a non- Islamic government?

[Gannouchi] Yes. It is permissible, according to our interpretation of Islam. Adherence to a non-Islamic system can become a religious duty, under certain circumstances, and if it can serve national unity.

[Olimpio] Let us suppose that al-Nahdah wins the elections. Are you willing to grant the other parties democratic rights?

[Gannouchi] Of course, as we said when the movement was founded in June 1981. The people's will must be respected, even if the communists prevail. It is certainly not we who are illiberal, but the dictators who laud democracy verbally, but who trample it in practice.

[Olimpio] What do you think of the crisis in neighboring Algeria?

[Gannouchi] In that country a revolt is under way against a corrupt government that nullified the Islamic party's election victory by the use of tanks. The solution is simple: There must be another election, and the people's decision must be respected. Despite the support of France and the other Western states for the Algerian regime, I am sure that democracy and Islam will triumph. With God's help. Be that as it may, I believe that the negotiating platform drawn up in Rome under the auspices of the Community of Sant' Egidio constitutes a positive step forward: The agreement could form the basis for establishing a national unity government whose prime task is to hold another election.

[Olimpio] Another force, the Tunisian Salvation Front, is emerging alongside al-Nahdah. What is your assessment of that movement?

[Gannouchi] Though the FST was born before the outbreak of the Algerian war, it drew inspiration and benefited from it. Its future in Tunisia depends on the regime's decisions: If the government remains stubbornly aloof, it will facilitate the growth of a few minor Islamic groups that will display their strength using the same methods as the regime. If that happens, the balance will lean toward the more radical parties, as happened in Algeria. The support guaranteed by the West to the tyrants is a mistake, because it prompts a reaction from the population, it marginalizes the democrats, and it plays into the extremists' hands. Is Iran not enough for us in the Islamic world?!

[Olimpio] Do such radical groups as Algeria's Gia and Egypt's Jamaa not harm your stance?

[Gannouchi] These groups represent the voice of those rebelling with force against the impositions dictated on Muslims by the alliance between the Western powers and the despotic regimes. Of course, many of them have a hard-line view of Islam and most of our world rejects them. But it would be unwise not to realize that if the Muslim community continues to be opposed, the radical organizations will prevail. And, having made this mistake, the West will only be able to regret the passing of such figures as Abbassi Madani in Algeria, Abdel Salam Yasin in Morocco, the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, and al-Nahdah in Tunisia.

[Olimpio] What will relations between Europe and Islam be like in the future?

[Gannouchi] It depends on you. You must stop regarding us as a combination of puritanism, rejection of dialogue, and hatred of the West. Most of us believe in universality and exchange between the peoples. By closing doors and setting all Muslims on the same level, you are encouraging them to become more extremist. It is not in your interest to side against Islam.

Bahrain

New Cabinet Meets, Outlines 'Priorities'

JN2706184095 Manama WAKH in English 1645 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manama, 27 Jun (WAKH) — The new Bahraini cabinet held its first meeting under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah here this morning.

Following the meeting, the Minister of Cabinet Affairs and Information Muhammad al-Mutawwa' said that the prime minister had made a speech in which he expressed his appreciation to all the previous ministers who performed their duties in a good manner.

The prime minister also welcomed the ministers who joined the new cabinet to take part in the shouldering of the responsibility and following up the march, wishing them every success in serving their nation in an important stage that requires more efforts.

He stressed that the way is too long and the responsibility is great, but hopes on the cabinet are (?greater). The prime minister added that the country and the whole region are facing many complicated political, economic, and social challenges in a new world of political and economic characters.

He said that Bahrain should have firm and clear stances emerging from firm principles toward Arab and international circumstances. Commenting on the general framework of the government's programme, the prime minister has illustrated the outlook of the government's national work in the next phase, in the light of the tasks included in the assignment letter issued by H.H. [His Highness] the Amir Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah to the prime minister to form the new cabinet.

He said that the government's top priorities would be the resumption of work to develop the Bahraini man and maintain an honourable life for him. The prime minister extended his directives to implement the new cabinet's priorities at the levels of basic services and human development in order to meet the requirements of the development programmes.

He stressed the necessity of continuing efforts to back the economic development and preserve the great achievements made by the state. He urged everybody to double the efforts in order to make the beginning a practical and correct one and to support security and stability of the country.

On behalf of the ministers, the minister of justice and Islamic affairs made a speech in which he expressed the thanks for the great confidence rendered by the prime minister to them. He stressed that all the ministers have the desire to work as one team to implement the government's programme and the valuable directives of the prime minister for the prosperity and progress of the country.

Then, the prime minister briefed the cabinet on the content of the telephone conversation made by H.H. the amir to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak yesterday. The cabinet congratulated the Egyptian president for escaping the terrorist assassination attempt in Addis Ababa. The cabinet also praised the great role of President Mubarak in serving Egyptian, Arab and Islamic causes.

The cabinet extended its good wishes to the Egyptian president and the Egyptian people and hailed the solid relations linking the two countries.

Kuwait

Yemen Urged To Make Statement on Iraqi Invasion

LD2706115295 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1036 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 27 Jun (KUNA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, reiterated here today Kuwait's desire to see Yemen issue a public statement calling on Iraq to implement all Security Council resolutions on its unjust invasion of Kuwait.

This came in a statement made by Shaykh al-Sabah when asked by the Kuwaiti News Agency for his thoughts on the comments made by the Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni National Assembly, during an interview with radio Monte Carlo last Friday.

During the interview Shaykh al-Ahmar reiterated his readiness and the readiness of the Yemeni Government to purify the atmosphere between his country and Kuwait, and to restore normal relations. Moreover, he indicated the existence of contacts between the governments of the two countries and reiterated his country's gratitude for Kuwait's past aid, as well as his condemnation of the unjust Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait.

Nonetheless, Shaykh al-Sabah pointed out that "Kuwait looks forward to seeing the Yemeni Government issue a public statement in this respect as a contribution to end the plight of Kuwait's children in Iraqi prisons, and to create solid bases for security and stability in the region."

Shaykh al-Sabah indicated that he listened with interest to what Shaykh al-Ahmar had to say in this respect. "Kuwait is grateful for his sincere and fraternal feelings toward Kuwait and its children during their bitter suffering at the hands of the unjust Iraqi invasion," he reiterated. He added that "Kuwait remembers with gratitude his honorable pro-Kuwaiti stances during the Iraqi occupation and his rejection and condemnation of the aggression, as well as his efforts to end it and to support what was right."

Oman

Foreign Ministry: Change in Qatar 'Internal Affair'

JN2706193095 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Jun 95

[Statement issued by the Foreign Ministry; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Government of the Sultanate of Oman has followed with deep concern and has officially learned of the announcement by the Government of the State of Qatar that His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani has assumed power in Qatar to succeed his father His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani.

Proceeding from the firm principles of the government of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, may God preserve — namely, not to intervene in other countries' internal affairs — Oman considers the change which took place in the State of Qatar an internal affair which primarily concerns the government and people of Qatar.

Earlier today, the Qatari media announced that Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani has assumed power in the country.

First Gulf State To Back Takeover

NC2706182295 Paris AFP in English 1753 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Muscat, June 27 (AFP) — Oman became the first Gulf Arab state to recognize the overthrow of the Qatari emir by his son on Tuesday [27 June] and said it was an internal affair.

"Oman has officially recorded the announcement by the Qatari government that Shaykh Hamad has taken power in Doha to replace his father," Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, a foreign ministry spokesman said.

"Oman considers that what has happened in Qatar was an internal affair which concerns primarily the Qatari government and people," the spokesman said, quoted by the official news agency ONA.

Earlier, King Husayn of Jordan became the first Arab leader to back the bloodless palace coup in Doha and congratulated Shaykh Hamad.

The Arab League, meanwhile, has also said it was an internal matter in which it could not intervene.

But the deposed emir vowed from Switzerland to return to the Gulf state and restore his legitimacy "at any price."

Shaykh Hamad has sent envoys to Qatar's mighty neighbour, Saudi Arabia, the unofficial leader of the Gulf Arab monarchies.

Qatar

Further Pledges of Support for New Amir Reported

Armed Forces, Security Commanders

JN2806095295 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir of the country and the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, received the Armed Forces and Public Security commanders and officers in the Amiri Court at 0800 today to congratulate his highness on his assumption of power in the country.

Those present reiterated the loyalty and allegiance of all the Armed Forces and Public Security members and their support for the steps his highness will adopt. They also said they will continue to stand united behind his highness to protect the homeland and safeguard its independence.

His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir of the country, thanked all the Armed Forces and Public Security members for their national sentiments and for their loyalty. He pledged to them that he will spare no effort for the loftiness of the homeland.

Royal Family, Citizens

NC2706130195 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 1205 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [break in transmission] ...allegiance to the amir of Qatar from members of the esteemed royal family, who have been coming to the Amiri office since early this morning declaring their support, backing, and loyalty. His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani received them in the Amiri office's grand reception hall. He [word indistinct] allegiance as amir of Qatar and a leader on the march of the new stage.

After that, His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir of the country, received the crowds of citizens. They came from all parts of the country to voice support and loyalty to his highness as amir of the State of Qatar and a holder of the banner of pride, might, and glory. Crowds of noble Qatari people are still visiting the Amiri Office as an expression of loyalty and support for His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir of the country.

Unanimous Backing From Council

NC2706140195 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 1305 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At the request of its members, the Consultative Council held an extraordinary session chaired by Speaker Muhammad Mubarak al-Khulayfi at 1300 today. The Council reviewed the situation in the country, the difficult circumstances Qatar is experiencing, and noted that it is impossible for the present situation to continue. The Council unanimously declared its support and blessing for the assumption of power by His Highness Shaykh [break in transmission]. [passage omitted]

At the end of the meeting, the Consultative Council unanimously agreed to send the following message:

Your Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir of the country, may God watch over him. In my name and on behalf of my brothers members of the Consultative Council, we offer our pledge to you and bless your assumption of power in the country, expressing our most sincere confidence and appreciation on behalf of our faithful people, who stand behind your wise leadership. May God grant you success and support you on the road of virtue. Peace and God's mercy and blessing be upon you.

[Signed] Muhammad Bin-Mubarak al-Khulayfi, speaker of the Consultative Council

Conditions in Country Called Normal, Peaceful

NC2706183495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1737 GMT 27 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with an "official of the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH" identified as Babakr in Doha, by unidentified Tehran radio correspondent in Tehran, on 27 June — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Can you provide us with a clear picture of political conditions in Qatar today?

[Babakr] Conditions are very calm and stable. People in government departments and other workplaces are going about their business in a very normal manner. There is no military presence in the streets at all.

[Correspondent] Jordanian television and its radio station have reported that military units are deployed in Doha.

[Babakr] No, this is not true at all.

[Correspondent] What is the general situation like now?

[Babakr] The situation is very stable. Qatari Television and the other media have been broadcasting continuously since the morning. The television is showing the pledge of allegiance ceremony for His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani after he assumed power. The television showed large segments of the Qatari public and many members of the ruling family, led by His Excellency Interior Minister Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani. It was clear that the entire ruling family appeared in the media, specifically on the television screen, to pledge allegiance to Shaykh Hamad as amir of Qatar.

[Correspondent] We can then understand that the transfer of power was done peacefully, without....

[Babakr, interrupting] In total peacefulness. The people went about their normal business as usual. The airport was not closed, nor was there any military presence in vital and sensitive locations. Indeed, life went on normally.

[Correspondent] According to some news agencies, Qatar has closed its land borders with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

[Babakr] I believe these are mere press reports. There has been no official confirmation of this.

[Correspondent] At the end of this interview, I wish to thank you. Peace and the blessings of God be with you.

[Babakr] Thanks to you and to Tehran radio.

London Reports Deposed Amir Confident of Return

NC2706185495 London MBC Television in Arabic 1810 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A short while ago, we telephoned our correspondent in Geneva, Muhammad Hunaybish, who went to the residence of the father amir, Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, in the Swiss capital. We first asked him how Shaykh Khalifah received the news of the change in his country.

[Begin recording] [Hunaybish] The news came as a big surprise to Amir Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani. But he appeared sure that what happened was illegitimate and that legitimacy will return to the country. I will return to my country at any price, he said. His morale is that of one confident that he will return to power, especially since the matter involves a father and a son, and that things will return to normal.

[Correpondent Antoine 'Awn] Muhammad, there have been several reactions so far, some supporting [the change] and others expressing reservations. What is Amir Khalifah's position on this?

[Hunaybish] The amir has so far not commented on reactions. But throughout the day, he held telephone contacts with many Arab and Western countries and with leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries. The amir told us that these Arab countries and the GCC denounced what happened today in Qatar and deemed it illegitimate. He said that there is a GCC agreement condemning such acts if they occur. [end recording]

Radio Reports Western Recognition of New Ruler

U.S. Approves 'Peaceful Transfer'

NC2806064395 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-Sa'ud Al Thani, the State of Qatar's ambassador to the United States, has met Peter Tarnoff, U.S. undersecretary for political affairs. They reviewed developments in Qatar.

U.S. Administration sources expressed satisfaction with the peaceful transfer of authority and the backing of the ruling family and Qatari people for His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani as the amir of the State of Qatar and particularly Qatar's emphasis on continuing its moderate Arab and international policies.

The meeting was held as part of consultations between the Qatari Government and the U.S. Administration.

Also as part of these meetings the Qatari ambassador met David Walsh, the deputy assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asia.

The U.S. Administration has welcomed His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani's assumption of power in the country.

State Department Spokesman Nicholas Burns told correspondents last night that the United States recognizes His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani's assumption of power in the country after the ruling Al Thani family and the main families and tribes in the State of Qatar publicly accepted the change, which was achieved peacefully.

He added: The United States received assurances from the new government on the State's policies.

London Offers 'Best Wishes'

NC2706174295 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The British Foreign Office has expressed its best wishes to the new government in Qatar, describing the change in government as an internal affair in which other countries cannot possibly interfere.

Envoy Carries Messages to Bahraini, Kuwaiti Amirs

JN2806095695 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, minister of finance, economy, and trade, arrived in Manama today on a visit to sisterly Bahrain. He will pay a similar visit to sisterly Kuwait. During his visits to Manama and Kuwait, his excellency will convey two written messages from His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir of the country, to his brothers their highnesses Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain; and Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, on relations between Qatar and both countries.

Interior Minister Leaves for UAE, Oman With Messages

JN2806094695 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister His Excellency Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani left Doha for the fraternal United Arab Emirates [UAE] this morning. He will later visit the fraternal Sultanate of Oman.

The Qatari News Agency has learned that His Excellency Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani will convey oral messages during his visits to Abu Dhabi and Muscat from His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the beloved amir of the country, to his brothers UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan and His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman on relations between the State of Qatar and each of the two countries.

UAE Ambassador to Qatar Farid Muhammad al-Za'abi was present at Doha International Airport to bid his excellency farewell.

Regional Leaders Congratulate Amir Hamad

Saudi King Fahd

NC2806063595 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, king of the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, has received a verbal message from His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir of the country. The interior minister, His Excellency Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani; and foreign minister, His Excellency Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani, conveyed the message when the custodian of the two holy mosques received them early this morning at the Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY has learned that the message deals with developments leading to His Highness Amir Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani assuming power in the country. Following the audience, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the monarch of the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, asked Interior Minister Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani and Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin- Jabr Al Thani to convey his most sincere greetings and congratulations to his brother, His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir of the country.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, who is the second deputy prime minister, defense minister, and inspector general; HRH Interior Minister Prince Nyif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud; HRH Prince Salman Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, who is the amir of Riyadh; HRH Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal; HRH Prince 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Fahd Al Sa'ud, adviser at the Royal Court; His Excellency Education Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir; and His Excellency Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, who is minister of state.

His excellency the interior minister, Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, and the foreign minister, His Excellency Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani, returned to Doha from Jeddah this morning. They were seen off at Jeddah by HRH the Saudi foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and Hamad Bin-Hamad al-'Atiyah, the Qatari consul general in Jeddah.

Yemeni President Salih

NC2706212895 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir, tonight received a telephone call from his brother His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the fraternal Republic of Yemen.

His excellency the Yemeni president congratulated his highness the beloved amir on assuming power in the country and wished him success in his new tasks.

His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said that the Republic of Yemen supports the State of Qatar. He voiced hope that the relations between the two fraternal countries and peoples will witness further progress and development.

Jordanian King Husayn

NC2706164795 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir, received today a cable of congratulations from his brother His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal, monarch of the fraternal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in which he conveyed sincere greetings and congratulations on the occasion of His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani's receiving the pledge of allegiance as amir of the country and his assumption of power with the confidence of the Qatari people to continue the country's process of construction and progress.

His Majesty King Husayn expressed profound hope that the era of his highness the amir will be full of prosperity and success. He prayed God Almighty to preserve our beloved amir and his honorable family and guide his actions toward the fulfillment of the Qatari people's and the State of Qatar's dignity and greatness and the Arab nation's benefit.

His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir, also received a telephone call from his brother His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal, monarch of the fraternal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The QATARI NEWS AGENCY has learned that His Majesty King Husayn expressed his most sincere wishes and congratulations on the occasion of his highness receiving the pledge of allegiance as the amir of the State of Qatar and his assumption of power with due confidence of his kinsfolk and people to continue the country's process of construction and progress. His Majesty King Husayn [break in transmission] guide his actions toward the fulfillment of the Qatari people's and the State of Qatar's dignity and greatness and the benefit of the proud Arab nation.

His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir, also received a telephone call from His Highness Prince Hasan Bin-Talal, crown prince of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. His Highness

Prince Hasan offered congratulations and blessings to His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani's assumption of power in Qatar.

His highness wished Qatar further progress and prosperity under the leadership of His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani and his assumption of responsibility.

Meanwhile Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti received a message today from His Excellency Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani. The message deals with the recent developments and reassures Jordan that conditions in the State of Qatar are stable.

His Excellency Ambassador Nasir Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Nasir, Qatari ambassador in Amman, delivered the message during an audience he had with Minister al-Kabariti.

Following this meeting, al-Kabariti told reporters that he asked the ambassador to convey his greetings and good wishes to his excellency the Qatari foreign minister. He affirmed that Jordan's firm policy is based on the principle of nonintervention in any country's internal affairs and on respecting the choices that every country makes about the form of its political system.

The Jordanian foreign minister stressed the special brotherly ties between the two countries and Jordan's confidence that Qatar has always been and will remain a country of centrist positions and moderation in its Arab and foreign milieus.

Al-Kabariti wished the State and people of Qatar the best possible success and stability. He said he is aware of the Qatari people's and Government's ability to make every possible effort to achieve progress, prosperity, and security for their people and play an important and pivotal role in closing Arab ranks and in establishing the best possible relations with the Arab brothers.

Abu Dhabi Heir Apparent

NC2706201595 Doha Qatar Radio in Arabic
2000 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir, received a telephone call tonight from His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, Abu Dhabi heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the fraternal United Arab Emirates.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan congratulated his highness the beloved amir on his assumption of power in the country and wished him success in his weighty tasks.

The Abu Dhabi heir apparent stressed his wishes to promote ties between the two fraternal countries in various spheres.

Chamber of Commerce Chairman Congratulates New Amir

NC2706203095 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic
2000 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir, has received a cable congratulating him on his assumption of power in his country from Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Muhammad Al Thani, chairman of the Qatari Chamber of Commerce and Industry and chairman of the General Federation of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture.

Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Muhammad Al Thani pledged, on his own behalf and on behalf of the board of directors of the Qatari Chamber of Commerce and Industry, allegiance to his highness, may God protect him, and their readiness to back his wise leadership.

Amir Congratulates Mubarak on Escape, Cables Others

NC2706183995 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic
1800 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir, has sent a cable of congratulations to his brother His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the fraternal Arab Republic of Egypt, on the occasion of his escape from the sinful attempt on his life in Addis Ababa.

His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir, has sent a cable of congratulations to His Excellency President Gouled Hassan, president of the Republic of Djibouti, on the occasion of his country's national day.

His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir, has sent a cable of congratulations to his excellency the president of Madagascar on the occasion of his country's national day.

IRNA Carries New Amir's Biography; Situation 'Calm'

LD2706170995 Tehran IRNA in English
1634 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, June 27, IRNA — The Crown Prince of Qatar Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani who ousted his father today was born in Doha in 1950.

He had his elementary and high school education in Qatar and his military training at the British military academy of Sandhurst from which he graduated in July 1971.

He was second colonel with the armed forces of Qatar, and first commander of the first mechanized battalion named Hamad.

Sometime later the crown prince of Qatar became an army general and commander in chief of the armed forces. On 31 May 1977 he was declared crown prince and was designated defense minister at which post he served until today.

The royal family in Qatar offered their allegiance to the new amir Tuesday.

Local radios and television channels interrupted their regular programs Tuesday to annouce news of the bloodless coup in a series of announcements interspersed with martial music, Persian Gulf states thus far withholding a reaction.

Just a few hours after the coup, cabinet ministers and local shaykhs in their audience with the new amir of Qatar offered their allegiance to him.

A member of Qatar news agency in Tehran Tuesday told IRNA that the situation in Qatar is calm and life normal. He said the likelihood of any immediate cabinet reshuffle by the new amir in that country was very remote.

The source at Qatar news agency in Tehran said that the new amir of that country was to delegate his personal envoys to the leading countries of the region for a briefing of the heads of state in those countries on the political upheaval that he has spearheaded in Qatar.

In a bloodless coup Tuesday, the crown prince of Qatar Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah ousted his 63-year father who had been in power since February 22, 1972, and out of Qatar since June 18 when he headed for Cairo and Tunisia before going to Switzerland.

Envoy of Omani Sultan Qabus Arrives in Doha

JN2806102495 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Sayf Bin-Hamad Bin-Sa'ud al-Bu-Sa'di, minister at the Sultani Court and envoy of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman, arrived in Doha this morning on a brief visit to the country.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Wishes Success to New Qatari Amir

LD2806092095 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2355 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 27 Jun — King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, in his office at al-Salam Palace on the evening of 27 June, received Qatari Interior Minister Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani and Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani, who conveyed a verbal message to the custodian of the two holy mosques from Qatar's Amir Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani. The Qatari amir's message expresses his greetings to and appreciation of the custodian of the two holy mosques, and stresses the excellent relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Qatar, and the desire to continue strengthening the firmly established ties between the two brotherly countries and peoples.

The custodian of the two holy mosques expressed his thanks and appreciation to His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the amir of the brotherly State of Qatar, and expressed his wishes of success to his highness and his honorable family, and wished progress and prosperity for the brotherly Qatari people.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general; Interior Minister HRH Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz; Riyadh Region's Amir HRH Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz; Foreign Minister HRH Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal; HRH Prince 'Abd al 'Aziz Bin-Fahd, adviser at the royal court; Ibrahim al-'Anqari, personal adviser to the custodian of the two holy mosques; Education Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Kuwaytir; and His Excellency Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers.

Yemen

Salih Urges Improved Relations With Qatar

JN2806060495 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 28 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih held a telephone conversation with His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani last night. The conversation dealt with the current developments in sisterly Qatar. His Highness Shaykh Hamad briefed the brother president on the causes and motives for the recent changes in sisterly Qatar.

The brother president wished His Highness Shaykh Hamad success in continuing sisterly Qatar's constructive march on regional, pan-Arab, Islamic, and regional levels to further enhance the status of the brotherly Qatari people, serve the Arab nation's issues, and bolster the march of regional stability and peace. He explained that what happened in Qatar is an internal affair and within the framework of the one family. He expressed confidence that the members of the Khalifah family will give their father, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad, all care, attention, and appreciation. He wished the brotherly relations between the two countries continued progress and prosperity.

BABIL Welcomes Assassination Attempt Against Mubarak

JN2706132695 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq was the only country to support the assassination attempt against Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

BABIL newspaper, which is run by 'Udayy, son of the Iraqi president, carried a banner headline reading: Better Luck Next Time. The paper said it hoped a new assassination attempt would take place.

TV on New Qatari Amir's Foreign Policy

JN2706200595 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Qatari Heir Apparent Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani was inaugurated in Doha today as amir of the state of Qatar to succeed his father Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani. [passage omitted]

The young shaykh has adopted an active foreign policy based on giving priority to his country's interests. He has not hesitated to adopt stands which conflict with the stands of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], particularly Saudi Arabia, toward Iraq and the blockade clamped on its people. [passage omitted]

Paper Assails U.S. Decision To Establish 5th Fleet

JN2706110095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 27 Jun (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has stressed that the decision to set up the U.S. 5th Fleet reflects Washington's militaristic tendency to impose its influence on the Middle East, especially the Arab region and its oil wealth, through the use of military force.

In a study published today, the paper says: The establishment of the 5th Fleet in the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Gulf gives several important indications. The most important of these is the fact that what the United States has done in the region since Britain's withdrawal from East of the Suez in the 1970's and until the 30-state aggression against Iraq, its subjugation of several regimes in the region, and its several bases and huge arsenals of weapons in the eastern part of the Arab homeland were not enough for its schemes. It also indicates that its hegemony needs strengthening.

The paper believes that the decision by the Pentagon and the National Security Council experts to set up the 5th Fleet may not be the only option. Rather, it may be the declared option in a series of secret moves to tighten the U.S. control in the region.

AL-JUMHURIYAH criticizes the U.S. military hegemony over the region which reminds people of the tendencies of the old colonialist powers. The paper says the decision to set up the new fleet confirms that the U.S. clings very strongly to the wealth of the region and that the U.S. interests come before any other consideration.

The paper recalls the United States' way of dealing with the world nations which is always based on the logic of the big stick and the suppression of people. The paper says that force remains the principal U.S. option and the ready remedy to resolve the world problems.

The study rules out the possibility that the timing of the decision aims at bolstering the deteriorating morale of Washington's allies in the region.

The paper also believes the establishment of a new U.S. fleet for the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Gulf implies an attempt to terrorize and threaten with military deterrence the people of the region who are experienced in the national struggle. This is especially the case after the Mother of Battles has provided an unparalleled lesson on the strength of the national will and defiance despite the disrupted balance of powers in the region.

AL-JUMHURIYAH concludes by saying that the United States' decision to strengthen its foothold in the region by introducing a military force at the size of a modern fleet, with all its advanced capability and equipment, reflects its disrespect for the other peoples and their freedom, sovereignty, national options, and national resources. It also reflects Washington's tendency to use brute force to impose its will on the others and force them to submit to its will.

U.S. Said Concerned at Possible Rapprochement With Iran

JN2006151695 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 8 Jun 95 p 7

[From the "Sidelines" column by Sabri Hammadi: "Dual Containment Once Again"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In November 1994, U.S. researcher Barbara Connery published a significant political analysis on the dual containment strategy which the U.S. Administration has adopted toward Iraq and Iran. In this analysis, Connery refutes all the arguments and pretexts which U.S. officials are using to justify this policy. She believes that "dual containment is fraught with dangers and is based on a wide, loose network of alliances."

What concerns us in Connery's analysis is her words that "if the policy of dual containment succeeds even slightly in isolating Iran and Iraq, the consequences for the United States will be serious, and an anti-U.S. alliance between Tehran and Baghdad cannot be ruled out then."

It seems to us now that U.S. officials are being forced to take a second look at Connery's analysis of the dual containment policy and to pause long and hard at her words "an anti-U.S. alliance between Tehran and Baghdad cannot be ruled out," in view also of the great talk in Western news media about the possibility of an Iraqi-Iranian rapprochement and an alliance between Baghdad and Tehran.

True, a serious rapprochement has not taken place yet between Baghdad and Tehran, but the Clinton administration's apprehensions about the possibility of such a rapprochement seem serious and real. Otherwise, U.S. news media would not have been at wit's end trying to predict, analyze, and explain, if not also play down, the possibility of strategic cooperation between Baghdad and Tehran.

We wonder, has the dual containment policy begun giving its bitter fruits?

AL-QADISIYAH Criticizes UN Special Commission

JN2706115195 Baghdad INA in English
0820 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, June 27, INA—AL-QADISIYAH daily of Baghdad has said that Washington is taking minor cases mentioned in the UN Special Commission head Rolf Ekeus report so that not to close up the anti-Iraq sanctions file and to put Iraq into the hot water.

In an analysis published today, the paper expressed regret over the Security Council ignorance of many positive points the report had underlined concerning Iraq cooperation with the Special Commission, the matter dictates an equivalent position by the Council to end the U.S filthy ploy.

It asserted that the people of Iraq can no longer render dear sacrifices and can bear no more sufferings, rather fair questions on the Security Council credibility are putting forward. [as received]

The daily held the UN Special Commission responsible for adopting fair and objective attitudes whether towards Iraq demands or the Security Council reports content.

It called upon the Council to appreciate Iraq cooperation and its full commitments to all the UN resolutions, sympathizing meantime with its people hardships caused by the unjust embargo by putting Para 22 of the Resolution 687 into practice.

The paper urged Iraq's friends in and outside the Security Council to support Iraq fair demands more seriously and crystalise their stances into more decisive and effective deeds.

It concluded by saying that each state should practice its right to the national sovereignty and protect its nationals' interests by neglecting the UN-imposed sanctions which became unwarranted, adding that the embargo in essence is a mere American measure and not an international one.

Ekeus Cited on Lifting Sanctions Within 'Weeks'

MM2706140795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 27 Jun 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Amir Taheri: "Ekeus Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Lifting of Sanctions Against Iraq Could Begin Within Weeks"]

[FBIS Translated Text] New York — Rolf Ekeus, head of the international committee assigned to dismantle Iraq's [mass-destruction] weapons, will head for Baghdad within the next few days on a visit which he says represents "the most important and crucial stage" in the mission which started four years ago. Ekeus said that "the process of lifting the sanctions imposed on Iraq four years ago could begin within a few weeks."

The international official told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in an interview conducted with him in his New York office that, "if Iraq provides the committee with information on the germ substances [al-mawad al-jurthumiyah] it is said to be concealing, the door will open to ending the sanctions." He said that his committee had closed the file on three main issues: the Iraqi nuclear program, chemical weapons, and missile projects. He went on to say: "The Iraqi nuclear program has been dismantled and no longer poses a threat. And I can also say that the stockpiling of Iraqi chemical weapons has now ended. As for the long-range missiles, all the research projects aimed at developing missiles with ranges above 150 km have been dismantled."

As is known, the main problem is the Iraqi germ weapons program. UN inspectors were able to discover that Iraq has 39 tonnes of what scientists describe as "germ-culture mediums" needed for the weapons. They also managed to detect the route of 22 tonnes of these materials which Iraq is believed to have stored as a strategic reserve. Inspectors believe that Iraq is concealing a further 17 tonnes.

Ekeus said that "this is a huge quantity, because one tonne of germ weapons can be developed into tens of tonnes of medium — which poses a threat to the region as a whole."

He added that his team had discovered "drying and spraying equipment, liquid substances, cooling and freezing equipment, other specialized equipment, and equipment that can be used to develop pernicious germs," and that his team had confiscated this equipment.

The international inspector warned: "If we do not find and neutralize the missing material, I will not be able to report to the UN Security Council that we have implemented the main part of our mission. So Iraq must realize that I cannot deceive or lie, and it must tell me where the missing material is."

Iraq gave a vague answer yesterday when it said that it would provide the information that Ekeus wants in return for prior guarantees that the sanctions would be lifted. Ekeus said that, once the germ file is completed, he will be able to report that his mission has been completed.

It is worth mentioning that the United Nations now has now an advanced and sophisticated surveillance system in Iraq, operating constantly to prevent Iraq from developing mass-destruction weapons again.

Ekeus said: "It is in Iraq's national interests to provide the information that we want in order for the sanctions to be lifted quickly." Asked what he meant by the word quickly, he said that the process could begin within "a few weeks, since the sanctions will not be lifted immediately." He added: "Of course, that would be impossible politically. But rapid progress can be achieved, hence the sanctions could be lifted step by step in accordance with a program agreed by the Security Council and the Iraqi Government."

Asked whether his recommendations alone are sufficient to persuade the Security Council members, especially the United States, to lift the sanctions, he said: "I cannot give a definite answer." However, he pointed out that "once he informs the Security Council that Iraq has complied with the main requirements, it will be difficult for Washington to continue to insist on maintaining the sanctions." He said that France, China, and Russia have openly pointed out that his final report will be the main key to lifting the sanctions. And British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd has said that Britain would agree to that when Ekeus announces the completion of his mission.

Ekeus said: "Britain is the one holding the key. And its position is less rigid than the Iraqis imagine. If it votes for lifting the sanctions, it will be difficult for the United States to use the veto against a draft resolution on lifting the sanctions.

Industrial Cooperation Agreement Signed With Bulgaria

JN2606121595 Baghdad INA in Arabic
10220 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 26 Jun (INA)—Iraq and Bulgaria today signed an agreement for bilateral cooperation in the industrial field at the conclusion of the 22d session of the joint Iraqi-Bulgarian committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation.

The agreement was signed for Iraq by Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals and head of the Iraqi side to the joint committee, and for Bulgaria by Kiril Tsochev, Bulgaria's deputy prime minister and minister of trade and external economic relations.

In a speech at the closing session, Staff Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan stressed that Iraq is keen on developing cooperation with Bulgaria in the industrial, economic, commercial, and scientific fields to serve the interests of the two friendly peoples.

He said relations between Iraq and Bulgaria are strong and advancing with a new spirit. President Saddam Husayn, he said, is keen on maintaining these relations.

He added that the signing of the cooperation agreement between Iraq and Bulgaria confirms that the two countries wish to strengthen and advance their ties. The convening of the 22d session in Baghdad under the current conditions demonstrates the strength of ties between Iraq and Bulgaria and the interest of leaders in both countries to develop these relations and open new prospects for mutual cooperation.

Kiril Tsochev, Bulgaria's deputy prime minister and minister of trade and external economic relations, stressed that the next few months will see major developments in joint cooperation between Bulgaria and Iraq. He said the meetings of officials from the two friendly countries give a boost to the special relations between Iraq and Bulgaria.

He added that his country is keen on implementing the provisions of the cooperation agreement and on developing the special relations with the friendly state of Iraq.

The agreement stipulates the execution of several joint projects, the exchange of expertise, and advancing and strengthening the prospects for joint cooperation.

In its 22d session, the joint Iraqi-Bulgarian committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation discussed means to strengthen ties of cooperation between the two friendly states in the fields of commerce, industry, energy, higher education, scientific research, transport, and telecommunications.

The two sides agreed to hold the 23d session at the Bulgarian capital, Sofia, next year.

The final meetings of the joint Iraqi-Bulgarian committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation and the agreement signing ceremony were attended by Lieutenant General Eng. 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization; several advisers at the Presidency; the two under secretaries of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals; the Iraqi ambassador in Sofia; and several Iraqi officials.

On the Bulgarian side, the meetings and ceremony were attended by Kliment Vuchev, Bulgarian industry minister; Philip Ichkov [name as transliterated], senior adviser to the Bulgarian prime minister; the under secretaries of the Industry and Finance Ministries; and the Bulgarian ambassador in Baghdad.

New Construction Said Marring Historical Sites

95AE0027A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 9 Apr 95 pp 66-69

[Unattributed article: "Babylon Departs History; Reconstruction in Modern Style Has Marred City's Historical Value; Special Presidential Podium for Saddam Husayn Atop Babylonian Theater and Saddam's Name Given to Highest Hill in City; Archaeologists and UNESCO Have Objected to Disfigurement of City"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—The reconstruction of Babylon [Babil] and its presentation as a complete city has aroused a major scientific uproar among Iraqi and foreign archaeologists. Matters have reached such a point that UNESCO has considered stripping away Babylon of its designation as a historical city because of what has happened as a result of the addition of new buildings and the reconstruction of old temples in a modern architectural style. These buildings have been painted white or brown. Parade Street, or what is left of it, has been repaved with asphalt and painted red, without any scientific or historical justification. For example, the Babylonian Theater, built by Alexander [the Great] has been rebuilt so it will be spacious enough for art celebrations and festivals. A special presidential box has been built for President Saddam Husayn and his family at the top of the amphitheater. Moreover, modern restaurants and markets have been built in the midst of the city's historical sites and atop the hills that cover invaluable archaeological remains that have not been uncovered yet. Instead of giving the name of Hammurabi, the famous Babylonian king, or of King Nebuchadnezzar to the city's hills and mountains, the highest hill in Babylon has been chosen, cultivated with special care, and called Jabal Saddam [Saddam's Mountain]. Moreover, a man-made lake has been built in the city center for ornamental purposes and paved roads have crisscrossed the city without any consideration for the important antiquities that are buried under these streets or that surround them and that are affected by the noise and smoke of vehicle engines. As for the baked blocks with which the temples and palaces have been rebuilt and transformed into theaters, such as the temples of Nenmach and Ashtar, they carry the image of Nebuchadnezzar, the image of President Saddam Husayn wearing a military beret next to it, and the inscription: "From Nebuchadnezzar to Saddam Husayn, Babylon Arises Anew." They have thus violated all scientific rules of preserving the value and history of the antiquities and the accomplishments of Babylon's kings throughout thousands of years. Numerous foreign archaeologists who have visited Babylon after all these adaptations see that Babylon has lost its historical character and that had it been left as it was—ruins, foundations, and walls—it would have preserved its scientific historical value. In 1989, the Iraqi Ministry of Culture and Information allocated a valuable financial award to whomever could devise a mechanical method to deliver water to the top of Jabal Saddam, as was done in one of the world's seven miracles (Babylon's hanging gardens). Nobody could discover the method. They have forgotten that the ancient city of Babylon was located under many layers of earth and that it was built in a land depression. Moreover, cultivating and irrigating the hills will destroy the antiquities that have been buried under these hills for thousands of years. Thus, we find that the work to rebuild Babylon has disfigured the city's historical landmarks and damaged its scientific reputation.

After Ur, Urido, and other Sumerian cities that were buried by underground and march waters in southern Iraq, Babylon is one of the oldest and most important historical cities. Babylon, which was one of the world's major capitals, gained broad fame from the time it flourished and until its fall—until today. Babylon is nearly 90 kilometers from Baghdad and is close to the city of al-Hillah. The oldest references to the city come from the Accadean era, nearly 4,300 years ago. The name of Babylon shone and its civilization flourished under King Hammurabi (1792-1750 B.C). It is well known that Hammurabi was a major lawmaker whose name is coupled with his famous obelisk (Hammurabi's

Obelisk) on which he inscribed civilian laws that safeguard the citizen's rights and regulate his life. They also regulate agriculture, commerce, contracts, women's rights, and marriage. What is surprising is that more than 5,000 years after Hammurabi wrote those laws, we find Iraq, which embraces the city of Babylon, living without laws and without a firm constitution that regulates people's life and protects their rights. In the Babylonian age, Babylon gained distinguished importance under the rule of Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar (604-562 B.C). Nebuchadnezzar's name is mentioned in a cuneiform text as follows: "Nabu Kodori Usar, the king of Babylon and the oldest son of Nabua Bali Usar, the king of Babylon." Nebuchadnezzar was a man of administration, war, and construction. This is why he founded a well-organized state, both at the civilian and the military levels. Nebuchadnezzar was succeeded by Amil Mardukh, his son, who ruled Babylon for two years (562-560 B.C). Nebuchadnezzar had a daughter whom he called Keshaya and who was married to Turkal Shar Usar. This commander assumed the throne after Amil Mardukh's death. Because of the importance and reputation Babylon had gained, Alexander, the Macedonian, spent a long time there before resuming his conquests. After those conquests, he returned to Babylon, where he died and was buried.

The old city of Babylon is surrounded by a nearly 18-kilometer outer wall and a rectangular inner wall through which the Euphrates River passes before it changes its course. The city is divided into two sections. The eastern section contains palaces and temples. The modern city is built in the western section. The famous Parade Street crosses the city. This street passes under Ashtar's Gate, of which the lower part still survives, with its mythical animals that are combinations of dragons, snakes, lions, and eagles. These animals represent Mardukh, the greater God of Babylon. The bull represents Adad, the god of storms. The remaining parts of the lower gate are prominent sculptures that are (not glazed?). Before World War I, German missions transported large parts of Ashtar gate that contained (glazed?) and colored sculptures. The southern palace of Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar (which has an area of 300 meters by 190 meters) is located on the left side of Parade Street. This palace is built of ancient baked bricks. But the hand of disfigurement has also touched this palace, which has been rebuilt and painted brown. The most remarkable thing that one sees in the palace's splendid yard is the hall of the king's throne (which has an area of 52 meters by 12 meters). This yard has been turned into the King's Hall Theater to host modern singing troupe's whose performances do not befit the value of the hall and the palace or the reputation of their king. The temple of Nenmakh (or the great lady) is located on the right side of Parade Street, which has been repaved with red-colored asphalt. This temple has also been rebuilt and turned into a modern theater.

King Nebuchadnezzar's most important palace is located before the end of Parade Street. This is the northern, or main, palace. It is in the yard of this palace that archaeologists discovered the most significant and prominent historical find symbolizing Babylon, namely the Lion of Babylon, which is sculptured from basalt stone and which symbolizes Ashtar, the goddess of beauty. The southern part of Parade Street passes through the city's most important temple, namely (Isakila) or the (elevated house). There is then the Terraced Edifice, with its square 91-by-91-meter base, its seven layers, and its height of nearly 91 meters. It is called Babylon's Zaqqurah. Babylon devoted attention to culture, education, and writing in its temples. Hundreds of discovered clay tablets talk about Babylon's life and glorify its kings and knights. They also contain astrological and scientific theories, as well as epic poems, such as the Epic of Galgamesh.

There is an ongoing contest between scientific archaeological missions and the Iraqi Antiquities Department over the hotels, restaurants, markets, man-made lake, car parks, and streets that are built close to the southern section of Parade Street, which is adjacent to the sacred wall of the Zaqqurah, not to mention the residential buildings built in the neighborhood of Goddess Ashtar's temple. Whoever visits Babylon today will be surprised by its modern architectural style. It is as if one is entering a city built anew according to whims that are ignorant of the scientific value and the historical importance of the city of Babylon. These antiquities do not belong to individuals but to mankind, and they are the subject of interest of archaeologists.

Opposition Parties Call For Continued Struggle

NC2506152895 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Opposition Iraqi parties and groupings have hailed the popular uprising in al-Anbar Governorate against the ruling authorities of Baghdad and called for continuing the struggle to topple Saddam Husayn.

In a joint statement they issued, these parties and groupings stressed the need to unite their efforts in order to save Iraq from the autocratic and dictatorial regime.

The statement was signed by the Iraqi Communist Party, the Ba'th Party-Iraqi Regional Command, the Democratic Grouping, and the Assyrian Movement.

Tribal Contacts Underway To Coordinate Against Regime

NC2506150195 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed Iraqi sources report that contacts are now underway between a large number of Iraqi tribes in various areas of the country to formulate a charter of honor that calls for unity of stands and ranks and for waging a struggle against the dictatorial regime so as to save Iraq from its evils and transgressions.

The sources add that these contacts have made good progress and that the coming stage will see positive developments that will serve our people's just struggle for freedom, construction, and democracy.

The sources cite a number of tribal leaders as saying that they held a series of meetings in the past few weeks to coordinate their stands and formulate a charter of honor that underlines the people's solidarity in bringing down Saddam's regime.

The sources say that the elders of the Al Sa'dun tribe in al- Nasiriyah have sent envoys to other tribes to stress their backing for the Iraqi people's will and their complete willingness to take part in nationwide action. The elders also stressed their rejection of the actions and practices of proregime tribe members.

Political observers say that this step will positively strengthen the struggle, consolidate national unity, and boost the firm confrontation with the Saddam regime's schemes and blatant maneuvers.

Rabin Comments on Talks With Syria, Jerusalem

TA2706151795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that if peace is attained between Israel and Syria and it calls for a significant withdrawal, the peace agreement will not be valid unless it is first endorsed in a referendum.

Anyone who talks about peace with the entire Golan is not telling the truth, he said. Appearing before high school students in Bat-Yam, Mr. Rabin was asked whether Syria could be trusted. He replied that question marks always exist and that there is no certainty about the stability of the Arab regimes. The prime minister emphasized that the current negotiations with Syria are being held only on one level, that of the security arrangements.

Referring to the question of Jerusalem, the prime minister said that as far as he is concerned Jerusalem is and will remain united. There will be no peace with whoever does not uphold its unity under Israeli sovereignty and consequently refuses to sign a peace treaty with us, Rabin said.

The prime minister's remarks were reported by our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon.

Rabin: Islamic Extremism, Not Syria, Threat to Peace

TA2706140895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Jun 95 p 2

[Report by Liat Collins]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Islamic extremists like those behind yesterday's assassination attempt on Egyptian President Husni Mubarak are the greatest threat to world peace, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said yesterday.

"This is additional proof that the real threat to world stability is the Islamic terror wave — not Syria, not the PLO and not Lebanon," Rabin told the Labor faction at its weekly meeting. "Even if it doesn't suit (Labor MK [Knesset Member] Avigdor) Qahalani."

Qahalani is a leading member of the movement trying to prevent withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres both sent messages to Mubarak after the attack. Rabin phoned Mubarak from the Knesset and called the attack "despicable."

"To counter (the Islamic extremists), a wide international and Middle Eastern front should be established, against the enemies of peace, tranquillity and stability who are first and foremost the Islamic fundamentalists backed by Iran," Rabin said.

"The Islamic extremists in Iran and the Hizballah in Lebanon are trying to bring down any regime which has or is trying to reach peace with Israel," Rabin added.

He attacked Qahalani and the opposition as being "anachronistic" for believing that Syria is still a serious threat.

"They live for yesterday not for today and tomorrow," Rabin said.

Rabin told the faction that Sunday's failed terror attack in Gush Qatif was also an attempt to sabotage peace and praised the Palestinian Police for arresting Hamas leaders. [passage omitted]

Netanyahu on 'Concessions' Shahaq To Propose

TA2706134595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Binyamin Netanyahu disclosed today that senior sources have leaked details to him from the position papers the chief of staff will present to his Syrian counterpart in Washington. According to him, these details refer to Israeli concessions on four issues: reducing the size of the Syrian Army, geographic asymmetry, foregoing early-warning and intelligence ground installations, and agreement to deploy foreign troops on the Golan.

Netanyahu made this disclosure in a meeting of the Likud's political committee in Har Kena'an, and his remarks were reported by our correspondent Ilan Ro'e.

Reiterates Claims on Concessions

TA2806121695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 28 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Knesset this morning began debating motions of no confidence in the government's intention to remove the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] from towns in the West Bank, as part of the second phase agreement with the Palestinian Authority. But the main focus of the debate this morning was an exchange between the government and opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu over information he claimed to have received about concessions to be made to the Syrians. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] Contrary to the wishes of the coalition and as Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres walked out, Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu disclosed what he said was a document of concessions to the army chief of staff, General

Amnon Shahaq, for the talks in Washington. This was Netanyahu as he left the plenum.

[Netanyahu] Mr. Rabin stated three principles that would guide him in any security arrangements with Syria. Other than promising not to get off the Golan, he said: First, that Israelis would monitor the surveillance installations in Mount Hermon — he has rescinded that demand here.

Second, he said that there should be a reduction in the size of the standing army of Syria — there is no mention of that in any of the items that are given here.

And, third, he said that there would be an insistence on inequality in the demilitarization arrangements between Israel and Syria — in fact, in this document, the government is saying specifically that it accepts the Syrian insistence on equality.

[Ze'ev] Who wrote this document?

[Netanyahu] This was a document that was handed over to the mission that is going to Washington from the government.

[Ze'ev] There were no headlines in the response by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, but a lot of bedlam. Peres had the Likud seething with his comparison between the Camp David accords and the government's policy now. Knesset Member Beni Begin sought permission to respond to the foreign minister, as the two attempted to teach each other English: Foreign Minister Peres saying Palestinian people in the Camp David accords refers to them as a nation; Begin saying if that were so, if people meant nation, it should have said its rights, and not their rights in the plural. [end recording]

Rabin's Bureau: Netanyahu Disclosures 'Nonsense'

TA2706162195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1600 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Prime Minister's Bureau says that the so-called details from the position papers that Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq will present to his Syrian counterpart in Washington disclosed by Binyamin Netanyahu are sheer nonsense.

Netanyahu told the Likud political committee that senior sources leaked to him that the chief of staff would present Israeli concessions on four issues: reducing the size of the Syrian Army, geographic asymmetry, foregoing early-warning and intelligence installations, and agreement to deploy foreign troops on the Golan.

In response, Rabin's bureau said that Binyamin Netanyahu should check his sources and decide once and for all whether the agreement with Syria has been finalized or not. This, in view of the fact that a few months ago he informed the nation that the peace treaty with Syria was a fait accompli, whereas now he says that in the document to be presented to Syria, Israel intends to make concessions on several components of the security arrangements.

Beilin Says Netanyahu Claims 'Inaccurate'

TA2706155695 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 27 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Tamar Golan and Rafi Ginat; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Ginat] How do you react to Binyamin Netanyahu's disclosure of the Israeli concessions, and do you believe they in any way harm the chief of staff negotiations?

[Beilin, laughing] Look, I am not certain that Netanyahu's sources are reliable. I do not think he knows what he is talking about. The serious and real negotiations, I am sorry to say, have not yet started. We are still at the beginning of the negotiations on the negotiations, despite the fact that a long time has passed, and perhaps was even wasted by the Syrians. I believe we are in the last 6 months of the window of opportunity. This is a moment of truth for both the Syrians and ourselves, and I hope we are mature and courageous enough to attain peace at the end of this opportunity.

[Golan] The question is whether such remarks by the head of the leading opposition party could impair on the expectations of the chiefs of staff talks?

[Beilin] I do not think so. I believe that the Syrians know that there is a government that conducts negotiations and there is an opposition that tries to torpedo the peace process but, since Israel has only one government, it is the one to lead to the successful conclusion of the negotiations, I hope.

[Golan] Are you optimistic? Are your expectations high or low?

[Beilin] I must admit that I am still not convinced that al-Asad has made the strategic decision. I would very much like to witness such a decision and be certain it was indeed made. I believe that Thursday night, at the end of this round of talks in Washington, we will be the wiser regarding the general direction to which Syria is headed.

[Ginat] If you, one of the architects of the entire process, do not believe Syria, what are the common people to believe?

[Beilin] I believe that if we reach an agreement with Syria, they will execute it to the letter. At the same time, I am not certain that they have made the decision to go for this process. I said that several months ago. If the Syrians really know what Netanyahu claims he knows, and if they are as convinced as he is that Israel is ready and willing to make concessions, why did they not come earlier? The fact that they did not means that either Netanyahu is being inaccurate, or that they prefer to make daily tactical decisions about making an overall strategic decision which will mean that they must pay a price which they might consider too high — the price of normalization. From their point of view, turning Israel from an enemy into a neighbor with which they have diplomatic, economic, and touristic relations is not a small price to pay and is not simple. There is no doubt about that. It may be that this is the reason why the Syrian side has not yet made any real decision. [passage omitted]

Officer Sees 'Terror Attacks' Beginning 1 Jul

TA2706164395 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Jun 95 p 1

[Report by Aharon Klein]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the defense establishment, there is the fear of a wave of terror attacks by the Islamic organizations that is expected to start on 1 July. A senior Intelligence Branch officer has said that the leaderships of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad will initiate several spectacular terror attacks, expecting to bank on the anticipated disappointment on the Palestinian street with 'Arafat's achievements in the negotiations with Israel and his inability to attain significant achievements on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] pullout from the city centers.

The senior officer noted that the Islamic organizations have been holding off on their large spectacular attacks, waiting for 1 July because they wish to avoid playing into the hands of Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian Authority [PA] who might present attacks before 1 July as the reason there have been few achievements in the negotiations and the reason that Israel persists against evacuating territory in Judaea and Samaria.

According to him, there are high expectations on the Palestinian street of 'Arafat scoring achievements in the negotiations, and any achievement he scores in the coming days, in the negotiations between 'Arafat and the Israeli top echelons on the evacuation of the city centers, will be seen on the street as 'Arafat's weakness, which would provide broader support and legitimization for the Islamic organizations to carry out terror acts. [sentence as published]

The officer further said that although the Palestinian intelligence and security deployment is quite significant, they cannot totally prevent terror attacks against Israel, and neither can the IDF and the Shin Bet. He believes that the PA will carry out a wave of quiet arrests of central Islamic organizations' activities before 1 July in an attempt to foil terror attacks against Israel.

The senior officer added that he believes that on 1 July the Hamas and Islamic Jihad leaderships will start giving their terror squads a go-ahead for spectacular suicide terror attacks of the type that we have seen in the past and which have significantly diminished over the past several months.

Regarding 'Arafat's position, the senior officer said that his status will indeed be temporarily harmed due to his inability to meet the Palestinian public expectations. According to the officer, expectations regarding the IDF's expected redeployment on 1 July, encouraged by 'Arafat, have peaked. "The date of 1 July is not sacred for the Islamic organizations as well, and they are expected to take action and resume terror attacks after the signing of the agreement between Israel and 'Arafat, which might be postponed by several days. Naturally, the absence of agreements will only further weaken 'Arafat and encourage the organizations to carry out terror attacks against Israel in an attempt to frustrate and harm the Israeli-Palestinian negotiating process," the intelligence officer said.

200 Palestinian Security Men Said in East Jerusalem

TA2706170595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Some 200 members of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service are currently operating in East Jerusalem. This was confirmed by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this afternoon in a reply to a parliamentary query by Knesset Member Zvulun Hammer. According to Rabin, 200 Palestinian security men operate in East Jerusalem, in violation of the agreements and without the permission of Israeli authorities or the defense establishment.

Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the prime minister rejected a claim by Deputy Jerusalem Mayor Shmu'el Me'ir alleging that the Palestinian security personnel collect protection money from local Arabs.

IDF Sets Up Settlement-Based Units

TA2806115995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jun 95 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will set up independent military units that will be in charge of security in the 144 settlements in the West Bank. The soldiers of the security units will, apparently, reside in the settlements. This has been decided on in recent discussions held in the Central Command and attended by the command commander, Major General Ilan Biran. The units' establishment plan was made part of Rainbow B — the IDF West Bank redeployment plan.

In the discussions, it was decided that a separate unit will be responsible for each settlement, and its size will be determined by the number of families in the settlement. Settlements of the size of some 30 families, such as Kadim and Ganim, will be guarded by units the size of a platoon. The small units will be commanded by a sergeant, while the larger ones will be under an officer's command. The independent units will be in charge of all security elements in the settlement, and will be manned by reserve and standing army soldiers, some of whom will be infantry soldiers.

According to a senior military source, the soldiers will be given a mandate to guard the settlement — including patrolling the settlement and its periphery — and to escort the residents, mainly children, traveling to other settlements and even to Jerusalem.

The source added that the plan will entail beefing up the IDF units stationed in the West Bank after the redeployment, and will require additional means, patrols, and budgets.

The plan assumes that the settlers will also engage in security activities inside the settlements, mainly in Civil Guard activities, although the settlers and the soldiers will not cooperate. The settlers will present the soldiers with a monthly schedule of bus and transportation services from the settlement.

At the same time, the current method of ongoing security patrols will continue, and they will be coordinated with the independent security units.

An Israeli offer to keep a small military force at Rachel's Tomb is currently being discussed in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. According to the emerging compromise, the unit will man the site 24 hours a day.

According to the redeployment plan, Palestinian policemen will be allowed to travel in areas dubbed "armed A zones." They will be allowed to cross from one zone to another only if escorted by Israeli troops. Also, joint patrols will be held in each zone.

West Bank prisons will be handed over to the Palestinians. This will include the central Nabulus Junayd Prison, and the Tulkarm and Ramallah prisons. The al-Fari'ah and al-Zahiriyah prisons will be abolished, but it is not clear whether the compounds will be handed over to the Palestinians.

The IDF has cut its budgetary demands for the redeployment following Rabin's refusal to expand the defense budget for this end. According to the Army's recalculation, it is now asking for 1.5 billion shekels for the redeployment.

Attorney General Plan for Settler 'Uprising'

TA2506062195 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 23 Jun 95 pp 8, 9

[Article by Tova Tzimuqi: "The Attorney General's Contingency Plan for Dealing With a Settler Uprising"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In November 1993, immediately after he entered office, Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir called an emergency meeting of senior army, police, State Attorney's Office, and Shin Bet officials. The debate was devoted to the question of how to deal with possible rioting by settlers in the territories in the wake of the signing of the Oslo agreement.

The attorney general was shocked by the picture laid out before him. State Attorney's Office and Shin Bet personnel talked about hundreds of cases of rioting by settlers — overturning market stalls, stone-throwing, smashing windows, vandalizing Arab-owned cars — who were never brought to trial.

State Attorney Dorit Beinish and senior Shin Bet personnel also spoke about murders of Arabs, which according to intelligence information were perpetrated by extremist settlers known to the security and legal authorities. All those cases were never solved and, as a result, charges were never brought.

Last week, after over a year and a half, Ben-Ya'ir closed the circle: the regulations on law enforcement in the territories on which he had been working for a long time were completed and submitted to the prime minister and the chief of staff.

In an internal memo sent a few months ago to Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Ben-Ya'ir wrote: "Law enforcement in the territories cannot be implemented as if with a magic wand.... To a certain extent, the situation is the result of the settlement policy in the territories and the particularly warm attitude displayed toward the settlers by Israeli governments. The structure of regional defense as well as the fact that the Israeli settlers possess many weapons, although justified in its own merit, do not help enforce the law or uphold public order."

Even today, after the change in the political attitude toward the issue, senior Justice Ministry officials know that the problems are just beginning. The implementation of the new regulations depends on an unequivocal message from the government (which is not yet showing such determination), complete coordination between the police and the army (whose success is hard to predict), and especially the reactions of the settlers and the Palestinians to developments in the political process.

Knesset Member Dedi Zucker, chairman of the Knesset Justice Committee, fears that the regulations were formulated too late and will not meet the tough challenges in the territories upon the establishment of the Palestinian autonomy and its gaining control of some areas. The settlers will drive on roads, some of which will be under Palestinian control; they will encounter armed Palestinian troops on the roads; the special status they acquired as an arm of the state's branches of government will be done away with.

The new regulations were formulated gradually. Following the meeting in November 1993, Ben-Ya'ir drafted a "secret" document describing the three levels of activity by the settlers: 1) disturbances, protests, and demonstrations at road junctions; 2) disturbances in the streets of the settlements, rioting, smashing windows, overturning market stalls; and 3) shootings. "A clear distinction must be made between the first level of behavior, which bears the characteristics of public protest, and the last two levels, which are of a criminal nature and are typically small-scale and carried out by extreme elements," Ben-Ya'ir wrote.

The attorney general indicated a few problems unique to law enforcement in the territories:

— Over the years police and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in the territories developed a deep affinity for the settlers. The main reason is that most Jewish policemen also work in a hostile environment, suffer the same attacks as settlers do, and what is most important, feed on the Israeli Government's message with regard to the territories: Jewish citizens control the area and live under an Arab threat, while the Arabs are the controlled party.

— The police lack the minimum funds to enforce the law in the territories. Ben-Ya'ir argued in internal deliberations that "the police's actions in the sphere of law enforcement have gradually gained the appearance of law enforcement more than being real law enforcement."

Some 200 Israeli policemen were registered as working in the territories. It was totally impossible for them to seriously investigate cases of stone-throwing, overturning stalls, and shooting. Law violations were not properly documented. Arabs did not report crimes due to their distrust of the Israeli system and for fear of retaliation by the settlers. The Jews, on the other hand, were not prepared to "rat" on their friends. The policemen and IDF officers looked the other way.

The main change proposed today by Ben-Ya'ir is building a strong police force in the territories. The massacre in Hebron accelerated the establishment of the Judaea and Samaria District police. The primary goal is to increase police involvement in the initial investigation after a crime has been committed, which is critical in order to bring people to trial. "...To this end, in the absence of a local plaintiff, the soldiers or policemen who witnessed the events will act as the plaintiffs."

The attorney general, a former judge, knows very well how important immediate documentation at the scene of the crime is for building a criminal case: to cordon off the scene of the crime and collect forensic information, to detain suspects, arrest them, and promptly deliver them to the police. He realized that in the absence of such documentation and lack of evidence the courts would have acquitted suspects on the grounds of reasonable doubt. The settlements got the message: no law enforcement. Colonel David Yahav, head of the IDF's International Law Department, said in the meeting in Ben-Ya'ir's office: "Most cases are closed due to a failure in the investigation stage."

P., the Shin Bet's representative in the meeting, added: "When it comes to making arrests in Hebron, the settlers regard the security forces as if they were the enemy. Therefore, any arrest meets with organized resistance: people are forewarned and alerted, there are riots.... They see the police as conducting political action in advance of their evacuation."

Even when a settler is brought to trial for rioting, Ben-Ya'ir knows that it is going to take two or three years for the court to hear his case. In many cases settlers ignore summonses and do not show up in court. Not too long ago Rabbi Levinger's wife was forcefully taken to a court hearing of her case.

A more serious problem turned out to be the enforcement of military confinement orders issued to Jews. The mockery Kakh members Barukh Marzel and No'am Federman made of the orders issued on them was seen on television screens more than once. Ben-Ya'ir proposes to solve the problem by bringing violators of such orders to summary trials in military courts. He illustrates his case with the following as an example: If there is information that a certain settler is party to a plan to cause a turmoil in the Cave of the Patriarchs, the army issues an order prohibiting him from leaving his home, then he ignores the order. What sort of deterrent effect will be achieved by bringing him to trial a year later in a civilian court?

Natan Levi of Tall al-Rumaythah and No'am Federman of Qiryat Arba' were issued confinement orders prohibiting them from entering the Cave of the Patriarchs which they ignored. According to the current regulations, the charges against them would have been discussed only months or years later by a civilian court in Israel.

What is the point, asked the attorney general? Meanwhile, he has been holding back on charges for the violation of military orders so as to submit them to a military court.

Rabin, the chief of staff, and the military judge advocate general are very apprehensive about Ben-Ya'ir's plan. The army is opposed to subjecting settlers to the authority of the military courts in the territories for fear that these distinct military institutions might be used as a stage for political agitation against the army and that the IDF might be dragged into a political struggle. The IDF managed to get Ministers Liba'i and Shahal to side with them.

Ben-Ya'ir is aware of this opposition and has so far abstained from executing his authority. He is less bothered today about the problem of enforcing the confinement orders, but is apprehensive about a time when relations between the government and the settlers become more acute and the need will arise to put down civil uprisings. Says a senior legal source: "This is Ben-Ya'ir's contingency plan in the event of a flare-up in the territories. He is using the military courts to get ready for any manifestations of a civil uprising, such as the establishment of militias. These would have to be dealt with at once, disarmed, driven away from the centers of agitation, and face the law."

The new regulations were drafted by Attorney Mikha'el Shaqed, head of the Special Crimes Department of the State Attorney's Office, who starred in the Demjanjuk trial and was one of the men who collected the material for the Shamgar Commission [set up to look into the massacre in the Cave of the Patriarchs]. According to Shaqed's regulations, the regional military commander will be responsible for the overall security of the settlers but will delegate some authority to the police.

The IDF, which is usually the first to arrive at the scene of a riot, will be required to cordon off the scene and document it properly so as to prevent the destruction and concealment of evidence. Its job will be to detain and arrest suspects until the police arrive, videotape the event, and collect eyewitness testimony. Soldiers will be allowed to testify in a criminal case even if they were mere spectators.

The regulations drafted by Attorney Shaqed include various scenarios. They are written in minute detail as operational orders to the army and the police for dealing with every possible eventuality. They include instructions about the equipment needed to enforce the law, debriefings, evaluations, how to set up a command post, and how to declare an area a closed military zone. A special chapter is devoted to instructions on how to deal with demonstrations, establishment of settlements or outposts, the takeover of control points, blocking roads, disturbances, etc.

The Judaea and Samaria District is getting organized. The crucial question is whether the army will adjust to the change and the distribution of duties and powers with the police. No less crucial is the psychological switch, both by the settlers and the security forces, from a state of non-enforcement to a normal state.

In the meeting at Ben-Ya'ir's office, Deputy State Attorney Yehudit Karp asked Elik Ron, the district police commander: "Isn't your rationale for not clashing with the Jewish population and waiting for a better chance ultimately counterproductive?"

Ron replied: "I would not set such hard and fast rules. My psychology differs from theirs. I cannot ignore their distress. For example, I will not make arrests on a day such as the day of the bombing in Dizengoff Street."

Ron will have 1,500 policemen at his disposal. The beating of YEDI'OT AHARONOT journalist Nahum Barne'a last March is a small example of the kind of challenge they will face. The event was filmed by two television cameras and the film clearly showed his assailants beating him as policemen stood by. Months have passed but the policemen who witnessed the event have not yet been found. The police announced that they have two suspect in the assault, but no charges have been brought so far.

King Husayn Congratulates New Qatari Amir

JN2706133295 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn has sent a cable to His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, in which he congratulated him on the pledge of allegiance he received as amir of the sisterly State of Qatar. Following is the text of the cable:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Highness brother Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, may God preserve him, amir of the State of Qatar, Doha:

God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

I send you my heartfelt greetings and congratulations on the occasion of the pledge of allegiance you received as amir of the sisterly State of Qatar and your assumption of power, thus winning the confidence of your kinfolk and people to continue the march of construction and giving in your dear country.

As I express to you my heartfelt wishes that your rule will be full of goodness and giving, I ask Almighty God to preserve you and the honorable family and to grant you success for the sake of your people's pride, your country's dignity, and the wellbeing of our dear Arab nation.

God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Your brother Husayn

[Dated] Amman, 29 Muharram 1416 hegira, corresponding to 27 June 1995

Al-Kabariti Receives Message on Qatar Developments

JN2706151995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti received in his office today Qatari Ambassador in Amman Nasir 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Nasr, who conveyed to him a message from Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Jasim Al Thani. The message deals with recent deveopments in sisterly Qatar and aims at reassuring Jordan that the situation in Qatar is stable. The Qatari ambassador noted the distinguished brotherly relations between Jordan and Qatar.

Briefs Reporters on Meeting

JN2706174695 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti received in his office today Qatari Ambassador in Amman Nasir 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Nasr, who conveyed to him a message from Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Jasim Al Thani. The message deals with recent developments in sisterly Qatar and aims at reassuring Jordan that the situation in Qatar is stable. The Qatari ambassador noted the distinguished brotherly relations between Jordan and Qatar.

Following the meeting, al-Kabariti told reporters that he asked the ambassador to convey his greetings and best wishes to the Qatari foreign minister. He said that Jordan's policy, which has been firm since its establishment, is based on noninterference in any country's internal affairs as well as respect for every country's choice of its form of political regime.

Al-Kabariti stressed the distinguished brotherly ties between the two countries, noting Jordan's great confidence that sisterly Qatar will continue to be a state of moderation in the Arab and international arenas. The minister wished the state and people of sisterly Qatar every progress, success, and stability. He noted that Jordan realizes the wisdom and ability of the Qatari people and Government to exert every effort to achieve progress, prosperity, and strength for the people of Qatar and to play an important and central role in unifying the Arabs word and establishing the best relations with Arab brothers.

Al-Kabariti Reportedly To Visit Saudi Arabia

JN2606105395 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 26 Jun 95 pp 1, 17

[Report by Faysal al-Shubul]

[FBIS Translated Text] Well-informed sources have told AL-ASWAQ that Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti may leave for Saudi Arabia in the next few days, carrying a message from His Majesty King Husayn to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques. This is the first official visit by a Jordanian official to Saudi Arabia since August 1990.

The sources said that arrangements have been underway over the past two days to prepare for this visit, which opens a new chapter in bilateral relations that have been harmed by the second Gulf crisis and war five years ago.

The sources added that a Jordanian figure held a previously arranged meeting with Saudi Crown Prince

'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz in an Arab capital last week.

The Jordanian figure cited the Saudi crown prince as saying that his country is determined to open a new chapter with Jordan.

Approximately two weeks ago, Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih announced that the Saudi monarch told him during their summit in Saudi Arabia that he is determined to open a new chapter in Saudi-Jordanian relations.

During his visit to Saudi Arabia, al-Kabariti is expected to meet with King Fahd and a number of senior Saudi officials to arrange for restoring bilateral relations to normal.

The same sources said that following the visit, Saudi Arabia is expected to nominate an ambassador to Jordan given the fact that it has not had an ambassador in Amman since 1990.

The sources did not rule out that al-Kabariti's visit to Saudi Arabia will pave the way for a Jordanian-Saudi summit this summer.

House To Discuss Bill on Ending Boycott of Israel

JN2606102795 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 26 Jun 95 pp 1, 17

[Report by Nabil Ghayshan]

[FBIS Translated Text] House of Representatives Speaker Engineer Sa'd Hayil al-Surur has decided to call the House for a meeting on Wednesday morning to refer the 1995 draft bill on ending economic boycotts and prohibiting dealings with the enemy to the legal committee for discussion, after which it will recommend either its adoption, rejection, or its amendment. The 22 opposition deputies are expected to try to prevent the attainment of a legal quorum for convening the session by not going into the hall, but if it is held in spite of their nonattendance, they will go in to try to prevent the House from passing the draft bill.

Deputy Hamzah Mansur, official spokesman for the Islamic Action Front [IMF] deputies, said that a decision to boycott the session has not been made, as yet, and that consultations are under way with the deputies to discuss all legal options. An Islamic deputy said that the IMF has asked several specialized research centers to carry out political, legal, and economic studies on the draft bill and that the results of these studies will be submitted for discussion during the deliberations.

A ranking government official has told AL-ASWAQ that the government will not ask for the amendment of the draft bill but will insist on keeping it as it is. Explaining this stand, the government source says that the addition of a clause to the draft bill stipulating that the purchase and sale of real estate to the Israelis should be subject to reciprocal treatment will be a serious thing as some countries like the United States, France, and the United Kingdom have no restrictions on the sale and purchase of real estate. Therefore, any Israel can buy real estate in Jordan with his U.S., or British passport.

The government source says that keeping the sale and purchase of real estate subject to the council of ministers approval guarantees real estate in Jordan would not be sold in an uncontrolled manner.

Opposition Defers Parliamentary Sit-In

JN2806072895 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Jun 95 p 12

['Special to the JORDAN TIMES' by Sa'idah al-Kilani]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman — Opposition parties announced Tuesday they had postponed a planned sit-in on Wednesday in front of the Lower House of Parliament to protest the discussion of laws that allow trade ties with Israel.

At a press conference held at the Islamic Action Front (IAF) party headquarters, the opposition parties announced the decision. Many had expected the parties' plans to counter the promulgation of laws that call for the cancellation of economic boycott with Israel. But Ishaq al-Farhan, the IAF secretary general, restated the opposition parties' stand vis-a-vis normalising ties with Israel and said action would be taken but at a later stage.

"The possibility of holding a sit-in is still open," said Dr. al-Farhan. "It is our right after all."

"We are going to take a historic step," he added.

Dr. al-Farhan said that opposition parties and deputies will lobby at all levels to prevent the adoption of the related laws by Parliament.

"The Arab-Israeli struggle is not over yet," Dr. al-Farhan said. "There are many temporary laws that have been pending for over 20 years. Why are we trying to speed up work on these laws?"

Taysir al-Zibri, secretary general of the Democratic Popular Party, told the JORDAN TIMES that the opposition parties did not agree on a specific date to stage a sit-in in front of Parliament. But they "will certainly take action in the future to ensure that effective opposition is exercised against these laws."

On Monday four IAF deputies met with Minister of Interior Salamah Hammad. Details of the meeting were not available. But Deputy Muhammad 'Uwaydah, who attended the meeting, said there was no mention of the laws or of the opposition's stand in this regard.

The laws include a 1973 law that bans land sale to Israelis, a 1958 law for boycotting Israel and 1958 law that bans trade with Israel.

"The government acts as if the Jordanian-Israel agreement is the principal law that governs the state and the society's movement," Dr. al-Farhan said. "Cancelling these laws opens the dors for an organised Zionist invasion to Jordan that is protected by the law."

Dr. al-Farhan said the government's call for lifting the economic boycott of Israel supports Israel's policy of seizing the West Bank and its denial of the right of return to refugees and displaced.

"Jordan is still listed as an enemy country in Israeli laws. Jordanians and Arab Israelis do not have the right to posses land in the Zionist entity," he said.

Jordanian-Israeli Border Demarcation Lines Laid

JN2606061595 Amman Radio Jordan in English
0430 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The cornerstone was laid last night for border demarcation lines between Jordan and Israel in the southern crossing area in al-'Aqabah. The celebration was attended by Jordanian and Israeli heads of follow-up committees and a number of officers from the two sides. The demarcation line extends from the Gulf of Aqaba to the Dead Sea area.

Country Begins Receiving Water From Lake Tiberias

JN2006123595 Amman Radio Jordan in English
1100 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Water pumping has started to King 'Abdallah Canal in the country from the Tiberias Lake in northern Israel. About 20 million cubic meters of water will be pumped during the five-month period.

Minister of Water and Irrigation Salih Irshaydat welcomed the move as an outcome of the battle for peace in this part of the world.

[Begin Irshaydat recording] This is one of the most important projects after the peace treaty signed by Jordan and Israel. This is one of the projects which we considered as fast-track projects. Today, after 102 days we succeeded in implementing this project. It is very important for us to receive such quantity of water in this time, in summer time. This quantity, which is by 20 million cubic meter, is very necessary for the water sector in both domestic use and irrigation use. [end recording]

Minister: Increased Tourist Figures Result of Peace

JN2206115695 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic
22 Jun 95 p 9

[Report by Ahmad 'Anbusi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In an exclusive statement to AL- ASWAQ, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities 'Abda-al-'Ilah al-Khatib has said that the number of tourists who visited Jordan has increased by 36.6 percent. The minister attributed this increase to various reasons, mainly stability in the region as a result of the peace process.

He said the number of tourists from America rose by 82 percent, from Europe by 41 percent, and from other countries by 39 percent. He noted that 35,000 Israeli tourists have visited Jordan during the first quarter of this year.

He added that these figures are encouraging. He noted: If our absorption capabilities were better, these figures would certainly be higher. [passage omitted]

Paper Optimistic Over Israeli-Palestinian Talks

JN2406091395 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Jun 95
pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "On Palestinian-Israeli Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Day After day, the kinsfolk in the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem are discovering that Israel's talk about peace and peace agreements with them are not serious. They are also discovering that the Israeli expansionist mentality is continuing its old practices, which do not acknowledge the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate right to self determination on their Palestinian national soil.

This is evident in the procrastination and prevarication in implementing the second phase of the year-old Declaration of Principles, which Israel still disregards.

Moreover, this is happening while thousands of Palestinian detainees are still in Israeli prisons.

This is also taking place while Israel is still closing the outlets of communication between the Palestinian Authority and its Arab neighbors, and even between the Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho as well as in Israel itself.

Furthermore, this is happening while Israeli settlers, backed by the occupation authority, are wreaking havoc in the West Bank, Gaza, Hebron, and Jerusalem.

In light of this, it was natural for the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem to announce a comprehensive strike in protest of Israeli practices. It was just as natural for the Palestinians to show solidarity with the detainees' hunger strike and announce a day of fasting in Gaza and the West Bank.

In light of this, we recall, first and foremost, His Majesty King Husayn's statements on achieving a comprehensive, lasting, and just peace in the entire region which cherishes a person's prestige and his right to a decent life. This is because people have the final interest in reaping the fruits of peace. We also recall Jordan's concern for achieving the Palestinian Arab people's national rights over their land and for fully supporting these people through firm agreements that organize Jordanian-Palestinian relations at present and in the future.

In our opinion, if Israel does not stop its current practices and bravely step forward to pay the dues of peace, especially on the Palestinian front, it will keep the peace process revolving in a vicious circle, putting all accomplishments made so far in danger.

Therefore, we view what will be achieved on the track of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations during the remaining week before 1 July with optimism, not only to get out of the current impasse but also to reinforce the peace process and give it a new push forward.

Paper: Israel Trying To Evade DOP Commitments

*JN2406154195 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
24 Jun 95 pp 1, 41*

[Editorial: "Partial Solutions Are No Alternative to Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations over the implementation of the second phase of the self-rule to expand it to cover the occupied West Bank are entering their final, intensive week. The positions of the two parties remain unchanged and the gap is growing, particularly over the basic issues related to the redeployment of the occupation army, the elections, and the Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails which emerges as an urgent and fundamental cause in the making of peace.

It is clear that Israel is trying to evade its commitment to implement the provision on redeployment, to circumvent the concept of the elections, and to delay the release of thousands of detainees in its jails. It does so in accordance with a political language that seeks to achieve partial solutions though phased proposals and a limited, symbolic redeployment. Thus, redeployment will need a series of stages and endless negotiations.

Israel is proposing "limited" withdrawal of the occupation army from "certain" Palestinian towns under the excuse that it wants to pave the way for the self-rule council elections. It also proposes that negotiations can be held in the future on the other phases of redeployment and so forth. This means an evasion of one of the most important elements of the Declaration of Principles which Israel agreed upon with the Palestinians. The principle of redeployment is an indivisible whole and must be implemented as a whole, and not partially. Also, if a timetable for implementing redeployment on stages can be accepted, then an agreement on this must be reached now and not in stages.

With the approach of the 1 July deadline for implementing what was stipulated in the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles [DOP], the issue of the detainees remains one of the most important issues that must be resolved to end the suffering of thousands of freedom-fighters, who are going on a hunger strike in jail.

Moreover, other factors of tension are emerging and these threaten to make the peace process lose its momentum and desired progress. The most prominent among these factors are the Israeli settlers' practices and provocations against the Palestinian people, who are seriously dealing with the issue of peace, hoping that they will see an end to all forms of terrorism, conflict, and racism that is being exercised against them.

We hope that Israel will stop its political maneuvers and procrastination to arrive at a fair, binding agreement, based on the Declaration of Principles, at the set date of 1 July. Partial and phased solutions to the commitments of peace will only cause further despair and failure, which have begun to threaten the peace process and its achievements on the foreseeable future.

Crown Prince, Prime Minister Receive Bulgarian Team

*JN2706190695 Amman Radio Jordan in English
1600 GMT 27 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan has met with the Bulgarian deputy prime minister and the accompanying delegation. Talks centered on means to enhance ties between the two countries in culture and economy-related areas. On his part the Bulgarian minister expressed his country's desire to establish joint projects between the two countries and to strengthen relations with Jordan. He added that he valued Jordan's pivotal role in achieving peace in the Middle East, confirming Bulgaria's determination to take part in the Middle East and North Africa economic summit scheduled in Amman next October.

Earlier Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir met with the Bulgarian official and discussed bilateral ties in various fields.

Trade Minister Meets Counterpart

JN2706201295 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 27 Jun 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A senior Bulgarian official held talks in Amman designed to expand trade and economic cooperation with Jordan. Bulgaria's Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Trade and External Economic Cooperation Kiril Tsochev met the crown prince at the start of his visit to Amman. He reaffirmed his country's keenness on further developing its relations with Jordan and setting up joint ventures. He said his country will attend the Amman economic summit.

At another meeting, Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir explained to the Bulgarian official Jordan's preparations for the Amman economic summit. The prime minister also spoke about Jordan's efforts towards achieving comprehensive peace in the Middle East and said the government is concerned with lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq.

During the day, Trade and Industry Minister 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib discussed a wide range of economic issues in the two countries' relations. The talks covered plans to set up joint ventures and increase the volume of trade exchange, which would narrow a deficit of the trade balance now in favor of Bulgaria. The Bulgarian official was briefed on Jordan's investment laws and some of the projects, which will be submitted to the Amman economic summit.

Shubaylat: Government Involved in Killing al-'Awamilah

JN2306175195 Amman AL-AHALI in Arabic 22 Jun 95 p 3

["Text of open letter" addressed to Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir from Layth Shubaylat, former member of the House of Representatives and president of the Jordanian Engineers Association; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Your Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you:

Three weeks have passed since the accurately-planned massacre, which took place in Umm-Uthayna suburb [in western Amman] and in which Mahmud Khalifah al-'Awamilah, martyr of the free word, was killed. So far, the government has not issued any official statement on the incident, despite our repeated demands for the government to carry out its duty and to acquaint the people with the official version of the story. As a result of this, rumors have increased and people have held you personally, al-Sharif Fawwaz al-Zabn [King Husayn's adviser for tribal affairs and former commander of the bedouin forces], and his relative Mazin al-Mughrabi responsible for the incident, particularly since it has become known that ranking security officials had no knowledge about the operation. The Jordanian people are disgusted and scared that they will enter the era of death squads which liquidate opponents.

Following the incident, many people have warned me of its meaning to me personally. This has made it more necessary to address this letter to you, particularly since the al-Nafir [Mobilization] case, which was undertaken when you were in office, is not far away.

The government — in whose era such a disgraceful act takes place and the government which disregards its people to the extent that it refrains from issuing a statement on the assassination — is fully responsible for the act. Also, each minister in this government will be responsible unless he resigns, and not if he is relieved of his post.

The person who follows up the history of this change in the security policy, since the massacre of the al-Yarmuk University, will find that al-Sharif Fawwaz al-Zabn and Mazin al-Mughrabi played a major role in this change. When al-Yarmuk University was stormed, bedouin forces were sent to the university and late Shaykh Nayif al- Khurayshah [member of the Senate and chief of southern tribes] strongly protested the policy of embroiling the sons of the tribes in a confrontation with their brother citizens. During the Rishon LeZiyyon events, Mazin al-Mughrabi was ridiculing and provoking the opposition deputies who stood up to serve their country and extinguish the sedition which he himself fueled through his misconduct. The condition we set before Prime Minister Mudar Badran was to dismiss al-Mughrabi in order to enable the deputies to continue their efforts to calm down the situation. It has become known that Mazin al-Mughrabi sent his men from the Special Police Force, in plain clothes, to the mosque yard to attack the deputy, who is still in the Parliament which lost his and our right — namely, to safeguard people from any encroachment. It has become certain that al-Sharif Fawwaz and Mazin al-Mughrabi are the commanders of the operation which resulted in the liquidation of martyr Mahmud al-'Awamilah. The delay in issuing an official statement on the incident will make the prime minister personally responsible for giving the orders to carry out the operation.

Thanks to the government, the fragile democracy, and party life, the Jordanian people are now like orphans sitting at the tables of malicious people. The Jordanian people may not be able to exact their rights now, but they will never forget the actions against their security by people in whom they have placed their trust. Your true friend is the one who tells you the truth, not the one who constantly believes what you say.

The throne of the Hashemites has always occupied a special place in the hearts of the Jordanians through love and not coercion. Thus, Jordanians have always regarded this throne as a point of reference above disputes. They turn to this throne to settle the differences between them, since the sharifs have great prestige. To suspect that those sharifs have involved themselves in a dispute with the people or some of their sons to the extent of liquidation is enough to destroy the love for the throne that is cherished by the people in their hearts.

God knows that I am offering good advice that is useful to the king and that will achieve the interests of the people. However, hypocrites are still portraying things to the king not as they truly are, in a bid to lead both the king and ourselves toward perdition. Perhaps, you are fortunate that this country cannot preserve its unity without the throne. We accept this and commit our affairs to God, since preventing vice should take precedence over achieving interests. But the situation will never be stable if the throne involves itself in a dispute with the people's beliefs and their social, cultural, and moral constants and if some people — who are viewed as supporters of the throne — compete with the people over civil, military, and political public posts. Also, the situation will not be stable if some of those people go as far as using the official Jordanian agencies to strike at the Jordanians. So, I urge you to contemplate this situation. One day you will realize how sincere my advice is.

God be my witness that I have offered advice to the throne and the people. I hope God will accept what I have offered, make people listen to it, and reward me for it.

Al-Hurriyah Party Changes Name

JN1906094595 Amman AL-'AHD in Arabic 17 Jun 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Jordanian al-Hurriyah [Freedom] Party has held its fourth annual congress and discussed the party's political and ideological documents and elected a central committee. [passage omitted]

The congress changed the party's name to the al-Taqaddumi [Progressive] Party for political and historical reasons and in response to the desire of the majority of members, especially the new members.

The elected central committee held a meeting during which Fawwaz al-Zu'bi was elected secretary general of the party, and Fathallah al-'Umrani, Ziyad al-Hisan, 'Awni Abu-Ghawsh, Zuhayr Qawwas, and Shafiq al-'Ati were elected Political Bureau members.

'Biggest Ever' Quantity of Drugs Destroyed

JN2706201695 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 27 Jun 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A huge quantity of various types of drugs was destroyed at the cement factory in al-Fuhays city. A committee of security officials was present to oversee the destruction process. Director of the Anti-Narcotics and Forgery Department Colonel Nazih al-Sharayidah said that drug addiction in Jordan is not alarming. He said the quantity, which was destroyed today, was the biggest ever in the history of Jordan. Jordan observed yesterday the world drugs day.

Al-Hirawi Speaks on Anniversary of Sarkis' Death

NC2706192795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 27 Jun 95

[Speech by President Ilyas al-Hirawi at a ceremony commemorating the 10th anniversary of former President Ilyas Sarkis' death, at al-Bustan Hotel in Bayt Miri—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] O Late President: You emerged from the ranks of the people, and you chose the state as a wager and a cause. Before the presidency, you pursued an objective, honest, and competent course. With the presidency, you guarded the constant principles of the homeland, and after the presidency, everybody acknowledged their debt to you. [passage omitted]

Ilyas Sarkis was great in that he refused to surrender Lebanon's sovereignty and dignity. During the Israeli invasion of 1982 and the arrival of the Israeli army in the capital and close to the Presidential Palace, you refused to leave the palace. That day—and I and some of my fellow ministers were beside you—you said: No Israeli will enter B'abda Palace except over my dead body. Security Council Resolution 425, which all the Lebanese want to see unconditionally implemented to restore Lebanon's national sovereignty up to the international border, was issued in your era.

Here we are with you, faithful to the pledge to return the south and Western al-Biqa' to all Lebanon. The issue of the south and Western al-Biqa' is the issue of all Lebanon. But we are interested in peace just as much as we are interested in the liberation of our occupied territory. Our battle seeks to restore full sovereignty over our entity and entrench our role in the region. Lebanon is more than the border around a land; it is a homeland and a role. We have proved that we deserve this status. Everyone now knows that the victory of Lebanon is the victory of all Lebanese. Lebanon has also proved that it is a model for upholding the message of justice and development.

Our solid determination to liberate our land, and our resolve to seek a just and comprehensive peace, the peace of justice and dignity, awakened world conscience in support for us, so much so that every country in the world is supporting Lebanon's right to the implementation of Resolution 425.

What adds to our strength is the policy of cooperation and coordination between Lebanon and Syria. President al-Asad, who offered the dearest of sacrifices to support us in firming up the march of salvation, is offering the same support for our battle to liberate the occupied parts of our national soil. The link between the Lebanese and Syrian negotiating tracks in the battle for the just and comprehensive peace is an act of commitment to the liberation of the south, Western al-Biqa', and the Golan, and an act of commitment to the victory of the Arab dignity.

O Great One from Lebanon, rest in your grave. There is a people and a state in Lebanon. Rest in your grave, Lebanon will not be marginalized; it will remain active within its Arab group, and it will continue to be the bridge between the East and the West. Peace will not be maintained without the homeland which the crisis failed to conquer.

Dear brothers, to honor Ilyas Sarkis is to honor united Lebanon, and faithfulness to him can be embodied by the solidarity of the Lebanese and their rallying around their state. The battle we are waging today is the battle of all Lebanon. It is the battle of the whole future.

O Late President, your faith in Lebanon cost you more than your heart could tolerate. Your steadfastness and patience were dedicated for the homeland. May God's mercy be upon you. You will always be on Lebanon's conscience. Long live Lebanon.

Islamic Resistance Claims 10 Israelis Dead in Attack

NC2806073495 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As part of the month of Muharram's operations, confirming its sacred option to resist the Zionist occupation enemy and his Agents, and retaliating for the continuing attacks on peaceful villages and innocent civilians, the Salah Ghandur Martyrdom Group of the Islamic Resistance has dealt more blows to the enemy forces.

At 1315 yesterday the Martyrs 'Isa Kamal and Lutfi Haydar units blew up a device on the Hula road as a Zionist foot patrol of 17 soldiers passed by. Five minutes later the Martyrs [word indistinct] and Muhammad Yasin units detonated another device near the same patrol, causing 10 confirmed deaths and some injuries. Enemy ambulances took them to hospitals.

At 1345 the Islamic Resistance monitored a Zionist tank moving inside the B'ir Kallaba [word indistinct]. It was attacked with the appropriate weapons and hit.

Lahd: SLA Policy Never To Fire on Lebanese Towns

TA2606102995 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Jun 95 p 2

[Report by David Rudge]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] has no desire or intention to shell villages north of the security zone or cause any casualties among "our Lebanese brethren," SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahd said yesterday.

Lahd said the SLA had also imposed restrictions on itself and its troops regarding shooting, and strictly adhered to these principles.

The SLA commander made the comments in a telephone interview yesterday with Channel 1's Arabic news reporter, Salman al-Tawil. [passage omitted]

A senior northern command officer told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday that Israel has full trust and confidence in the South Lebanese Army militia, and in no way depicts the SLA as being responsible for the current escalation in south Lebanon.

"Some of the SLA's judgements on when to use force and where to direct fire may have been rash, but it is not as if they concocted to deliberately escalate the situation," the officer said. [passage omitted]

Lahd stressed that residents living north of the zone "are Lebanese like us. They are our brethren and we have nothing against them."

He noted, in the telephone interview, that mistakes sometimes occurred, as had happened at Shaqra, but that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] could also make errors.

Lahd emphasized that as a matter of principle and policy the SLA did not fire at "Lebanese towns and villages." He maintained that even in incidents when Hizballah shelled towns and villages inside the security zone, the SLA did not always respond for fear of hitting innocent civilians.

Regarding the Israel Radio report, Lahd said IDF soldiers were present in the security zone and often entered SLA positions. [passage omitted]

Correction to 'U.S. Official' Cited on 'Terrorism'

NC2706105195

The following corrections pertain to the item headlined "Paper Cites 'U.S. Official' on 'Terrorism,'" published in the 23 June Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 41, column one:

Paragraph four, sentence two, make read: They added that among them is Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-al-'Abbas), the person responsible for the 1985 hijacking...(supplying indistinct words)

Paragraph five, sentence two, make read: The plane was due to make a stopover in Saudi Arabia. FBI agents were waiting for him on the ground but Saudi officials... (supplying indistinct words and rewording)

Paragraph six, only sentence, make read: According to a step taken by the United States, the MEA is now allowed to sell tickets to non-Americans from its offices in Washington and New York...(supplying indistinct words and rewording)

Paragraph seven, only sentence, make read: The U.S. officials who say that this company transports "many evil people" say that there will be no more easing of the embargo unless Lebanon extradites those wanted for trial in Europe and the United States. (supplying indistinct words and rewording)

Talks Between al-Shihabi, Israel's Shahaq Begin

JN2706204395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington — Talks between Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces; and General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli chief of staff, opened in Washington this evening.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS cited Nicholas Burns, spokesman for the U.S. State Department, as saying the talks are being held under the auspices of the United States and with its close participation.

Requirements for Success of Talks Reiterated

JN2706145995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1138 GMT 27 Jun 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Military talks between Syria and Israel, which are scheduled to open in Washington today, are in the limelight. The talks will translate the broad headlines of the security understanding into detailed plans on the ground. The United States, as its officials have announced, intends to do its utmost to render these talks a success, given their importance vis-a-vis the progress of the peace process on the Syrian-Israeli track and given Syria's vital position in the overall peace process.

U.S. officials say that there are still wide gaps between the Syrian and Israeli stands. However, they did not lose hope that the sought progress can be realized. They noted that there can be no retreat and that peace is the only option in the region. However, peace in the region can prevail only if the stumbling Syrian track is extracted from its stalemate and progress is made on the Lebanese track. The fact is that Washington is showing a measure of optimism as a result of Syria's positive stand and its sincere efforts to establish peace. The U.S. concerned parties did not conceal their belief that Syria's intentions are sincere and that it is engaged in the peace process with a high sense of responsibility.

Syria is adhering to the constants of a comprehensive and just peace; thus no one can blame it for its defense of its rights and interests and those of fraternal Lebanon. Syria's vision of a stable and durable peace has earned appreciation as well as support.

Events in the region have proven that fragile agreements do not realize peace and do not render the region any closer to peace. On the contrary, they may further complicate the situation and cause it to become explosive as we can see in the occupied Arab lands.

It is clear to all observers that Syria is not taking part in the Washington talks from a weak position. On the contrary, throughout more than three and a half years, Israel has failed to force Syria to budge, even an inch, from its declared position toward the peace process and toward the need for this process to lead to the Israeli troops' full withdrawal to the June 1967 lines.

In the previous military talks and the ensuing contacts held by the U.S. administration, Syria has exhibited adherence to the principles of evenness [ta'adul], equitability [takafu'], and balance [tawazun] in any proposed security arrangements. Syria has not hesitated to cut short military talks when it became convinced that Israel entered these talks with the aim of maneuvering and blackmail.

The current talks are yet another test of Israel's intentions and credibility as regards peace. Syria is adopting a firm stand in favor of a just and comprehensive peace. However, it will not bargain on two fundamental issues, namely, Israel's full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines and its acknowledgement of equal [mutasawiyah] arrangements on the two sides of these lines. If Syria is the basic party in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the peace process, then advancing this process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks hinges on Israel's commitment to full withdrawal, implementation of Security Council resolutions, and compliance by international law as the terms of reference in every dispute. This requires a change in the Israeli position which, thus far, has been marked by defiance of the international community and its resolutions and laws, attempts to impose hegemony in the Middle East, and replace a just and comprehensive peace and its requirements by unilateral and unfair agreements.

Hence, the success of the Washington talks and subsequent talks depends on the extent to which Israel will respond to the requirements and conditions of a just peace, foremost of which is full and comprehensive withdrawal. We hope the Israelis now realize, after all these years that followed the Madrid conference, that no one can extort Syria or force it to relinquish its land and rights or to take any step it refuses to take given its pan-Arab conscience.

Envoy: No Concessions To Be Made to Israel

NC2406155595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 Jun (MENA) — Syrian Ambassador in Cairo 'Isa Darwish has lauded Egypt's role in backing the Syrian and Arab right to liberate the occupied territories in Palestine, Lebanon, and the Golan and said that Syria's decision for peace was a strategic one that "will not lead us to make concessions or capitulate."

In remarks he made today while opening the first Syrian fair in the Exhibition Center in Nasr City, the Syrian ambassador called on the international community not to have double standards, because Israel is apparently exempt from heeding international resolutions.

He stressed that no concessions will be made to Israel during the current round of negotiations in the United States and asked: Can any person cede his land or honor?

He urged the United States, in its capacity as the peace sponsor and full partner in the adoption of the UN resolutions — especially Resolutions 242 and 338 — on the occupied Arab territories, to implement these resolutions and intervene to make Israel withdraw from these territories.

He stressed that U.S. concern has not so far been translated into practical decisions during the negotiations. He said that there will be no peace in the region unless Israel withdraws from the occupied territories.

AL-THAWRAH on Israeli 'Escalation' in South Lebanon

JN2506140895 Damascus SANA in Arabic
0725 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus, 25 Jun (SANA) — [passage omitted] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH notes Israel's recourse once again to political and military escalation hours before the meeting of military experts in the American capital which will discuss security arrangements on the Syrian track and formulas for their application.

The paper says: Rabin's government, like other radical Israeli parties, are endeavoring to influence the Washington meetings in a bid to foil them and prevent them from making any progress vis-a-vis accomplishing their specific tasks which, if completed, would help other components of the peace process make progress.

The paper talks about the southern [Lebanon] card, which Israel is trying to manipulate to pressure, extort, and browbeat the Arabs; to deal with Lebanon separately; and extract concessions to impose the logic of occupation and aggression.

The newspaper calls on Israel's rulers to realize that whoever eschews peace and usurps the land and rights of others by force and threatens their security, safety, and lives in broad daylight is the terrorist. It adds that no one can deny the Lebanese people their right to resistance to liberate their land.

Concluding, the paper says: [Solving] Israel's problems and [achieving] its security should not be at the expense of the security of others. A solution can be attained only through withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. Only a just and comprehensive peace can guarantee security and dignity for all.

Responsibility for South Lebanon Tension Rejected

JN2206123495 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic
20 Jun 95 p 1

[Editorial by Muhammad Khayr al-Wadi: "Southern Lebanon"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The hot situation in southern Lebanon confirms that occupation is the source of tension and instability. The Israeli occupation of the south is the reason for the emergence of national resistance as a fair and legitimate means of self- defense and a means to restore usurped rights. The continuation of the occupation is nurturing the feelings of hatred and hostility toward Israel inside and outside Lebanon. Those who practice suppression and usurp the territory of others should not expect amicable feelings from the victims.

Occupation, moreover, is the cause of stumbling in the peace process in the region. This is because land seizure and feigned love for peace are absolutely irreconcilable. The one who truly wants peace must renounce the policy of aggression, expansion, and occupation, and eschew the tendency toward hegemony and domination of others. Therefore, the attempts of some political quarters to blame Syria for the continuing tension in the south do not convince anyone. In fact, these attempts are truly ridiculous. If Israel wants to defuse tension and stem violence in southern Lebanon and ensure stability in that region, then the road to this is very clear. Israel must fully withdraw from southern Lebanon, stop interfering in Lebanon's affairs, and respect its sovereignty, independence, and rights. Any other way will not lead to any results.

The worsening situation in southern Lebanon also underlines another fact, namely, that military superiority and the stockpiling of all kinds of advanced weapons can never provide security for Israel. Tel Aviv now possesses a huge arsenal of weapons. It annually purchases aircraft and missiles worth billions of dollars and allocates several other billions for its military establishment. Above all, Israel has around 200 nuclear warheads. It has also launched satellites for military purposes. It is common knowledge that Israel's military power cannot be compared with Lebanon's. Despite this, Israel has failed to ensure its security and the security of its soldiers in Lebanon.

Israel has not only threatened to use its military might; it used it savagely against Lebanon. Israel launched an all-out aggression against Lebanon in 1982, almost employing all its military power. It did not spare land, plants, and animals. Despite this, Israel's military might could not hold fast in the face of the Lebanese people's determination to put up resistance and confrontation and their resolve to restore their rights, freedom, and dignity, whatever the sacrifices.

Despite the big difference in military capability, the result was that Israel had to withdraw from large parts of Lebanon, thus ending bloody chapters of an aggressive military adventure that cost Lebanon a great deal. This adventure also depleted Israel's human, economic, and military resources and led to political upheavals. One result of these upheavals is that the Likud Party failed to remain in office.

Israel mobilized large forces in southern Lebanon and established the agent Lahd army, on which it spends huge sums of money annually. The Israeli Government also established the so-called "security belt" to protect Israel's security. What results did it get from all this? The security zone is now an area where the Israelis fear most for their security and is a source of concern for all of Israel. The army of agent Lahd on which Israeli lavishly spends is now on the verge of total collapse, as confirmed by the en masse desertions from its ranks, the low morale of its soldiers, and the decline of its combat efficiency. Many years following the establishment of the security belt, the inhabitants of northern Israel are still forced to spend many days in shelters as a result of the retaliatory strikes by the Lebanese national resistance, and continue to suffer heavy material and human losses.

In short, Israeli military superiority, the stockpiling of weapons, the allocation of billions of dollars for military purposes did not provide Israel with security and will never guarantee it. This is natural because any party, no matter how strong it may be, cannot guarantee security for itself at the expense of the security of others and after usurping their rights.

All of Israel's efforts have focused on safeguarding its security at the expense of the Arabs security. That's why the results were gloomy and disappointing for the Israelis themselves. The excessive use of military force in southern Lebanon has created innumerable political and economic problems for Israel and made it assume additional heavy burdens to the point that transformed the policy of aggression in southern Lebanon into a real dilemma and predicament for Israel.

Events in southern Lebanon confirm that the only way for Israel to enjoy security is to establish a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace, a peace that restores rights to their owners, and that will eradicate the roots of aggression and expansion. Real security will be attained only if it is parallel [mutawazi) and equal [mutasawi] and not in favor of one party and at the expense of the other.

On the basis of the tense situation in southern Lebanon, there is also the fact that the Lebanese people are determined to regain all their geographic and political rights regardless of how long it takes or the sacrifices involved. The recurrent operations by the Lebanese resistance, the popular and official rallying around it is cogent evidence that official and popular Lebanon is not ready to abandon its rights and make concessions to Israel. Lebanon, with Syria's help defeated the Israeli invasion in 1982 and it will now succeed to liberate its land and safeguard its security and stability.

What is taking place in southern Lebanon shows that the occupation is the source of all the problems, that military superiority will not make Israel feel more secure, and that peace is the only course for ending tension there.

Some Israeli officials have admitted that a military solution in southern Lebanon is impossible. This admission is a step in the right direction. But, more steps are needed, namely a complete withdrawal from southern Lebanon, an end to interference in its affairs, and respect for its independence and sovereignty.

Paper Views al-Qunaytirah Liberation Anniversary

JN2706074695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 Jun 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary today, AL-THAWRAH discusses our people's celebration yesterday of the 21st anniversary of the liberation of al-Qunaytirah from the Israeli occupation.

The paper says: This anniversary is a source of pride and glory to the Arabs as they seek to regain the land and rights in full. It reflects our nation's boundless readiness to offer sacrifices and face the challenges to preserve honor, pride, and dignity.

AL-THAWRAH hails this national occasion. On 26 June 1974, the great Arab leader Hafiz al-Asad raised the Syrian Arab flag in the sky of al-Qunaytirah with tens of thousands of our people attending to celebrate the splendid victory scored in the October liberation war.

The paper says: On this occasion, we must say that Syria cannot relinquish its, or its brothers' rights, and it will continue to adhere to its genuine positions which do not bargain over rights. Syria will further continue to seek the just and comprehensive peace that will lead to Israel's full withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, particularly the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that the demand of the full return of the Golan Heights is not subject to any bargaining. Syria has repeatedly stated that it sticks to the complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and insists on implementing Resolution 425 which stipulates an unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

The paper stresses that Syria considers the Syrian and Lebanese tracks inseparable and believes that each complements the other. It also believes that peace with Syria cannot be achieved without achieving peace with Lebanon, and vice versa.

Peace Stand on Anniversary Reviewed

JN2606202995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1138 GMT 26 Jun 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The 21st anniversary of the liberation of the city of al-Qunaytirah, the capital of the Syrian Golan, falls today. On 26 June 1974, the Syrian Arab flag was raised in the sky of the liberated city and al-Qunaytirah returned to the motherland, Syria, after the occupation troops destroyed it before they withdrew from it. Despite the tragic situation of al-Qunaytirah, where destruction, brutality, and racism prevailed, the day of its liberation had more than one meaning. That day carried the real dimensions of the strong, firm relationship between the homeland and citizens, between the leader and people, between will and position, and between action and objective.

With the return of our people to the liberated villages on the day on which al-Qunaytirah was liberated, 21 years ago, the faces of our people showed confidence in victory, confidence in Syria's steps, and confidence in investing the results of the October war of liberation and the heroic war of attrition.

We are dwelling today on the meanings and dimensions of the anniversary of al-Qunaytirah to reiterate an important and major fact, namely, that Syria's positions and policy have never abandoned the constants and principles of the Arab right and never hesitated to demand the return of all of its territory through all means and ways. Syria has established the path to just and comprehensive peace. Its position was based on adherence to the principles of the peace process, the resolutions of the international legitimacy and the UN Security Council, and the land-for-peace formula. In light of these principles and constants, Syria participated positively in the Madrid peace conference and in the Washington talks. It also paved the road to peace by complying with all requirements and dues of the just and comprehensive peace. Moreover, it demanded a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon as a basic condition to achieve that peace.

Syria, which was the first to call for an international conference for peace in the Middle East in 1975, is still concerned to render the peace process a success on the basis of international legitimacy. Syria is also still trying to achieve a breakthrough in the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Hence came the agreement on understanding on the principles of security arrangements between Syria and Israel under the sponsorship and supervision of the United States to show again that to Syria peace should be based on fairness, justice, comprehensiveness, balance [tawazun], equality [musawah], and ending the occupation. This peace is Syria's strategic option because it will give each party his right, restore land, and regain all rights.

These constants are the basis for Syria's course, policy, and positions. On the anniversary of the liberation of al-Qunaytirah — as the vigor strengthens and as Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, continues in the battle to establish the genuine, just, and comprehensive peace — we must stress that Syria does not bargain over territory or relinquishes its rights.

Paper: 'Strategic' Ties With Iran 'Here To Last'

JN2506100995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 25 Jun 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments today on the strategic relations between Syria and the Iranian Islamic revolution. The paper says that events and developments are evidence of the steady growth of Syrian-Iranian relations in accordance with the interests of the two friendly peoples and states. This has been continuing since the eruption of the Islamic revolution, which turned Iran into a friend of the Arabs and their fair causes.

AL-THAWRAH continues: Syrian-Iranian relations, outlined by the strategic vision of the two friendly countries' leaders, headed by President Hafiz al-Asad and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, have yielded fruit in the various fields of bilateral cooperation. The exchanged visits between Presidents al-Asad and Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Tehran and Damascus and the constant consultations through contacts and messages have had a major role in overcoming all difficulties and lifting all obstacles from the road of continued development in the interest of the two friendly peoples and countries.

AL-THAWRAH says that the periodic or semi-periodic meetings of the joint higher committee under Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Iranian Vice President Dr. Hasan Habibi have provided sound bases for the objective development of economic, political, and cultural relations in accordance with the instructions of the two countries' leaders to respond to the changes and mutually benefit from the two countries' strategic relations.

AL-THAWRAH voices confidence that the message President Hafiz al-Asad has received from Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the meetings of the joint higher committee, which began in Tehran yesterday, are indications of the continued coordination and consultation on various issues.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Strategic Syrian-Iranian relations are here to last. Those relations are proceeding firmly and steadily.

Daily Assails Authority for Helping Israel

JN2206143595 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 20 Jun 95 p 3

[From the "With the Events" column by Jibarah al-Barghuthi: "We Will Not Believe Their Solidarity With the Detainees"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nearly half a century ago, Israel violated all laws defending man and his rights and rejecting aggression as a means of expansion and usurpation of others' territory. Then, the Palestinians were displaced from their land, after massacres had been committed against the populations of Dayr Yasin, Qibyah, and Nahhalin.

After those gross violations of rights, Israel found in the Oslo agreement a means to humiliate the Palestinians and punish those youngsters who waged the intifadah in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

While the self-rule police took charge of the tasks of the Israeli border guard inside the Gaza Strip, the Israeli special units can only thank the self-rule authority for the information it is providing them about the intifadah heroes in the bleeding West Bank.

In an attempt to cover the large-scale detentions in Gaza and Jericho, the authority of repression in the Gaza Strip and Jericho claims that it supports the Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons. To prove this, some of the leaders of this authority observed a one-day fasting. One who shows solidarity with prisoners or detainees should at least be innocent in the eyes of the people. However, Gaza knows how raids and detentions are taking place. The West Bank can see how the Israeli special units' soldiers of death are reaching the hideouts of the intifadah strugglers, as if they have for long known those hideouts and the roads leading to them.

This is not the case. The truth of the matter is that the occupation agents have been turned into informers and policemen for the self-rule authority. Therefore, those who were considered heroes in the time of the intifadah have become condemned and suspects in this ill-omened time of the self-rule authority.

How will the Gaza and Jericho authority support detainees in the occupation prisons while its practices, as described by British papers, are harder and more bitter than the Israeli practices? If protecting the armed settlers in Gaza has become the responsibility of the self-rule police, then who will protect our Palestinian people against the crimes of those settlers?

Recently, the settlers turned Hebron into an arena for displaying their barbarism and rancor. Earlier, they celebrated the heroism of Goldstein who committed the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. Will the Gaza-Jericho authority accept being a protector of those murderers and an executioner of those who shed their blood to defend their land, honor, and lives?

Minister Views Establishing Investment, Export Banks

JN2706093995 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 1 Jun 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The People's Assembly has heard comments by several members on issues relating to the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade, such as creating a higher investment commission to replace the Investment Bureau and establishing new public or mixed sector banks commensurate with Encouragement of Investment Law No.10 of 1991. [passage omitted]

In his replies to these comments, Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi affirmed that actual practice in implementing the investment law has so far proven that the method which is being used is the best and most effective in following up on all investment issues with the required speed, saving time and effort, and avoiding routine. Dr. al-'Imadi also affirmed the need to develop the banking system as a basic and important step, adding: The Syrian Commercial Bank was once overburdened with foreign debts, but we have succeeded in paying $2.8 billion. Thus, our debts are now almost paid up, which has restored the bank's legal, financial, and economic status internationally. Regarding the possibility of opening public, private, or mixed sector banks, Dr. al-'Imadi said: The government statement of policy has not dealt with this issue, and we only act according to this statement.

Replying to a question by assembly member Muhammad 'Adil Jamus on the possibility of creating a higher investment commission to replace the Investment Bureau, Dr. al-'Imadi said: We would like to point out that the Higher Investment Council which was established under Article Five of Investment Law No. 10 of 1991 and is composed of the prime minister as chairman, the two deputy prime ministers as vice chairmen, and the ministers of economy, finance, supply, agriculture, planning, and industry and the head of the Investment Bureau as members constitutes a higher investment commission which discusses all topics and matters relating to investment, including the approval of investment projects and their incorporation under the provisions of Law No. 10 of 1991. [passage omitted]

In reply to a written question submitted by assembly member Ihsan Sunqur on 26 February 1995 regarding the possibility of establishing new public or mixed sector banks commensurate with the Encouragement of Investment Law No. 10 of 1991, the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade stated the following:

1. Two draft laws have been prepared for the establishment of the following two banks:

A. An investment bank which will undertake all banking business resulting from the implementation of Investment Law No. 10 of 1991, Legislative Decree No. 10 of 1986 on agricultural investment, and Higher Tourism Council Decision No. 186 of 1985 on investment in tourism. The bank's capital is estimated at 1 billion Syrian pounds.

B. The Syrian Bank for the Development of Exports, which will be aimed at developing and encouraging exports. This bank may, for the fulfillment of its purposes, undertake all types of banking business in local or foreign currencies and advise Syrian producers on the marketing of their products.

2. This is in addition to the continuous efforts to develop the work of specialized banks. An agreement will be signed shortly with the European Union to develop and modernize the work of the Syrian Central Bank and the Syrian Commercial Bank.

3. The current number of bank branches throughout Syria are as follows:

— The Syrian Commercial bank, 37 branches.
— The Cooperative Agricultural Bank, 89 branches.
— The Real Estate Bank, 16 branches.
— The Popular Credit Bank, 50 branches.
— The Industrial Bank, 14 branches.
— The total: 206 branches.

New bank branches will be established in 1995 in accordance with each bank's plans.

4. Regarding the establishment of mixed sector banks, the banks were nationalized under Legislative Decree No. 37 of 1993 and the provisions of this decree are still valid. [passage omitted]

India

BSF Exchanges Fire With Bangladeshi Rifles

BK2606040595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There was a heavy exchange of fire between Bangladesh Rifles and the BSF [Border Security Force] which lasted for two hours in Belonia subdivision of South Tripura last evening. Quoting subdivisional officer [SDO] of Belonia, our Agartala correspondent reports that the Bangladeshi Rifles opened unprovoked fire from their automatic weapons when the SDO and PWD [Public Works Department] engineer along with a groyp of laborers when to the embankment of Muhari River for repairing works within the Indian side. The Bangladesh Rifles posted on the other side of the river ordered to stop work and started firing. The BSF returned the fire to save the Indian people. However, there was no casualty.

Implications of Chief Ministers' Visits Viewed

BK2506124895 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 24 Jun 95 p 12

[Editorial: "Travelling Salesmen"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There can be, nothing more reassuring to foreign investors who are anxious to know how politics will influence economics and business in India over the next year than the fact that three chief ministers, representing different political ideologies, have set sail in search of investment. For Prime Minister Narasimha Rao there could not have been a better fourth anniversary gift from the Opposition than the decision of Mr Jyoti Basu, Mr Manohar Joshi and Mr NT Rama Rao to visit Britain and the United States to scout for foreign investment. More important the simultaneous visit of three distinguished regional leaders, representing a wide cross-section of political opinion in the East West and the South augurs well for policy stability in case a coalition government comes to power in New Delhi after the next general election. That Mr Joshi, Mr Basu and Mr Rama Rao have been in favour of economic liberalisation and a larger role for private investment, both domestic and foreign, in their own states is by now well known. Admittedly, each one of them has qualified his support for Mr Narasimha Rao's policies by adding "politically correct" caveats. Mr Basu says that as a chief minister he has no other option but to join the all-India bandwagon, whose direction has been set by the Union government. If in power at the Centre, says Mr Basu, his party will combine liberalisation with a more vigorous role for the government in the economy. Mr Rama Rao has declared that he in favour of foreign investment in everything from microchips to potato chips. The fly in ointment appears to be Mr Joshi's ally, the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP], which is partial to microchips but not to potato chips. But then the BJP is known to speak in many voices on economic policy.

Indeed, like the CPM [Communist Party of India-Marxist], the BJP also has a forked tongue. Some of its leaders are Lohia "swadeshis" [advocates of self-reliance], others are Swatantra [independent] free-marketeers. The ideological confusion within that party is best exemplified by its inability to spit out or swallow the Enron project, the problem remaining stuck like the poison in Lord Shiva's throat. It would be honorable to permit such inconsistencies in the parties of the Opposition so as long as they are honestly working out their contradictions, overcoming their inhibitions and are preparing their supporters for the brave new world into which they must lead India. In return for such consideration, they must also begin to act responsibly, supporting the government on a common agenda of action so that all reform and restructuring need not wait till after the next election. A minimum agenda of action aimed at keeping the lid on the now reduced rate of inflation, stepping up revenue mobilization both for the Central and state governments, improving the rate of return on public investment, stepping up labour and capital productivity, and so on, can be drawn up if politicians are willing to look beyond the next election to the next generation.

Shiv Sena Chief Opposes Maharashtra Air Terminal Pact

BK2506160995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Shiv Sena chief, Mr. Bal Thackray, has opposed the Maharashtra Government signing a memorandum of understanding [MOU] with a consortium led by the Hinduja Group to conduct a feasibility study for building an international air terminal in Bombay. The MOU was signed during the recent visit of the chief minister, Mr. Manohar Joshi, to London. Talking to newsmen in Pune, Mr. Thackray said tenders should have been floated. He pointed out that the Shiv Sena opposed the Enron project for the same reason of not inviting tenders.

Development of Cryogenic Engine Project Viewed

BK2506070495 Delhi INDIA TODAY in English 30 Jun 95 pp 128-129

[Report by Raj Chengappa]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Perched atop a thickly forested hill near Trivandmm, the Liquid Propulsion Systems

Centre (LPSC) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was among the first to have its slopes drenched by the monsoons last week. And as the new season sets in, the stains of the spy scandal that crippled its functioning in the past few months are being washed away too. The LPSC is now all set to make a fresh beginning with one of its main objectives: building sophisticated rocket engines that use cryogenic fuels — to power all future Indian space flights.

Recently, the Union Government approved some major changes designed to kick-start the cryogenic-engine programme. A.E. Muthunayagam, director of the LPSC since its inception, was asked to take charge as secretary, Department of Ocean Development. G. Madhavan Nair, 50, project director of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle that was successfully launched last year, was appointed in Muthunayagam's place.

Meanwhile, although the Central Bureau of Investigation is likely to clear S. Nambinarayanan, head of the cryogenic project, of any involvement in the so-called scandal, he may not return to his post. Nambinarayanan would like to pull out. Reason: "The case has blown my confidence. I just won't be able to take the kind of daredevil decisions needed to execute such projects without fears that someone would attribute sinister motives to them." That would be a sad exit for someone considered to be one of the country's leading experts in liquid-propulsion technology.

While the hunt is on for Nambinarayanan's successor, Nair is busy putting together a team of scientists that would form the core group responsible for building the cryogenic engine. Last week, a series of meetings were held to review the entire design of the indigenous version. Originally, before the Russians yielded to US pressure and reneged on the Rs [rupees] 230 crore deal to supply two cryogenic engines and transfer the technology to build them, India had planned to develop carbon copies of the Russian designs. After the recent review meeting, however, Nair clarified: "The cryogenic engine we propose to build would be similar to the Russian one but not the same."

The critical question, though, is: How long would Indians take to develop it indigenously? Using supercooled liquid oxygen and hydrogen as propellants, the cryogenic engine is to power the final stage of India's Geo-Synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV). The launcher will help India put satellites of the INSAT class into orbit thereby saving on the cost of hiring expensive French rockets. GSLV's first launch, already delayed by two years, is now scheduled for mid-1997. To meet India's requirements, the Russians have agreed to sell India seven fully assembled engines. That would take care of the GSLV launches till the turn of the century. By then, India will have to be ready with its cryogenic version.

The ISRO top brass maintains that the spy scandal has not affected its cryogenic programme. But their unwillingness to commit themselves to a specific timeframe for developing the engine is one major indication of just how unsure they are. While former ISRO chairman U.R. Rao had indicated that India could build one within four years, his successor, K. Kasturirangan, is more circumspect. "It took advanced players such as Europe and Japan over eight to 10 years to build similar engines," he cautions. "Our target of achieving it by the turn of the century is ambitious."

Understandably so, for what the recent review has shown is just how difficult the task of building the engine is going to be. Relying excessively as they did on the Russian offer to transfer technology, the Indians had neglected their own cryogenics programme. Now, as Nair says: "We have to start literally from scratch." Top of the agenda is acquiring the capability to handle the extreme temperature variations — from supercooled conditions of -250 degrees Celsius that the fuels are stored in to the incredibly hot 2,000 degrees Celsius that is experienced in the engines' thrust chambers.

To build the engine, the Union Government has managed to set aside Rs 350 crore. So far, the LPSC has set up a facility in its Mahendragiri complex near Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu to make liquid hydrogen with the help of a German collaborator, Linde, at a cost of Rs 50 crore. Meanwhile, fabrication is under way for its principal test stand in the same complex. But these are just small steps compared to the task ahead. Although the Russians did pass on some drawings before the contract was cancelled, and a small team of Indian scientists was trained by them for almost a year, it was far from sufficient for the LPSC to build the engine based on their experience.

Now space scientists will have to put their heads together and work on mastering several critical technologies that include making metals that can withstand extreme temperatures, high-speed turbo pumps, precision injectors and ignition systems (see chart). And with the US carefully monitoring the project's progress, ISRO may not be able to get any kind of foreign help. Says Kasturirangan: "We would have to do it completely on our own." The problem is that the organisation's own experience on the cryogenics front has been none too happy. Two years ago, it had designed a one-tonne-thrust cryogenic engine to "wet our feet in the technology", as a scientist put it. But because of improper mixing of fuels, the engine exploded while being tested. No further trials have been conducted since then.

Now the LPSC is entrusted with the task of building a 7.5-tonne- thrust engine required for the GSLV — a quantum jump in technology. Conscious of its limitations, the Centre has been seeking help from a number of science-and-technology institutes across the country including the IITS [Indian Institutes of Technology]. Says V. Gnanagandhi, deputy director of the cryogenics project: "The idea is to put together expertise wherever we can find it in the country so that we can complete the task in the shortest possible time." But time is not on ISRO'S side. [Begin box] Cryogenic Engines: Where Does India Stand?

1. PROPELLANTS

With a German company setting up on a turnkey basis a liquid hydrogen plant in the LPSC's Mahendragiri complex, India can now meet its indigenous requirements. Scientists, however need to gain experience on the combustion dynamics when the two propellants are mixed.

2. METALLURGY

As the engines undergo phenomenal temperature variations ranging from -250 degrees to over 2,000 degrees Celsius, specialised metal alloys are required for its thrust chambers, turbines and tanks. India is still deficient in the powdered metallurgy and special alloys required for it.

3. TURBO PUMPS

Turbo pumps which operate at speeds of 43,000 revolutions per minute (RPM) and withstand enormous pressure and temperature variations are critical. So far India's capability is upto 15,000 RPM pumps for liquid propellants and it is only now making a beginning to upgrade its capability.

4. THRUST CHAMBER ASSEMBLY

Scientists will have to master a host of technologies such as fabricating the injector unit with its sophisticated double valve systems and specialised machining to make the minute helical grooves required for the regenerative cooling process in the inner chamber. [end box]

Iran

Official: CIA Chief Promises To Help Opposition

*LD2706202395 Tehran IRNA in English
2015 GMT 27 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 27, IRNA — Iranian Information Minister 'Ali Fallahian said here Monday [26 June] that the enemies of Iran recommended to the opposition groups such as terrorist Mojahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) to feign democratic postures and to pretend they are supporters of human rights.

The information minister added that the new head of the Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, while submitting his propaganda programs, said that he would compensate for the weak approach of former CIA officials with regard to Iranian issue.

The CIA new head added that in this direction, he would help the opposition forces to Iranian Government.

Fallahian concluded by saying that the enemy confesses that no alternative exists in Iran.

Russian Official Denies 'Secret' Deal With U.S.

*LD2706225295 Tehran IRNA in English
2058 GMT 27 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 27, IRNA — A Russian Foreign Ministry senior official ruled out Monday [26 June] conclusion of a secret contract on fixing a date for ending the routine Russian sale of weapons to Iran during the fifth session of Al Gore-Chernomyrdin meeting.

A senior U.S. official had recently said in Washington that the U.S. vice president, Al Gore and the Russian prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin are probably due to sign the contract.

INTERFAX news agency, quoting the Russian official, reported that the expiry date for the said contract, has been fixed in the Irano- Russian documents and without the U.S. interference.

Meanwhile, a high-ranking official in the Russian prime minister's office who sponsored the Al Gore-Chernomyrdin meeting, in an interview with INTERFAX, termed even thinking about the conclusion of such a private deal as 'completely futile.'

The said diplomat added that Russia would not submit to U.S. pressure for its technical and military cooperation with Iran.

Omani Official on Not Joining U.S. Embargo

*LD2506165195 Tehran IRNA in English
1541 GMT 25 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA — Omani Minister of Foreign Affairs [title as received] Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah underlined that Muscat will not follow the United States trade embargo against Iran.

Bin-'Alawi in an interview with Abu Dhabi-based daily, AL-ITTIHAD said, "it is to our advantage not to follow U.S.."

Iran is a neighboring country and has a lot of interests in the Persian Gulf countries which ignoring them is impossible, Omani minister added.

U.S is aware of this fact and it should not expect the countries of the region to follow suit on the embargo.

"We try to secure peace and stability in the region with the help of our brothers in Iran," Bin-Alawi said.

Velayati Wishes Success for New Qatari Government

LD2806102695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 28 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the political developments in Qatar, answering a question from our correspondent on the Iranian stance toward these developments, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said: Taking into account the recent developments and change in power in Qatar and by stressing the need to respect the resolve of Qatar's Muslim people, Iran is hoping that this change, which is being supported by the ruling council and the parliament of Qatar, will contribute to the continuation of peace and stability in the region and result in the welfare and prosperity of the people of the neighboring and fraternal country of Qatar.

Mr. Velayati added that, in light of the principles ruling the Islamic brotherhood and good neighborly relations, Iran hopes that the constructive ties between the two Muslim and neighbor countries will further consolidate and expand and that the new government will be successful in fulfilling its important responsibilities.

Official Says OPEC Unaffected by Qatari Events

LD2806092195 Tehran IRNA in English 0834 GMT 28 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 28, IRNA — Iranian oil minister here on Wednesday [28 June] said that recent developments in Qatar will not have much effect on OPEC policy.

Describing Qatar as one of the oil richest oil countries, Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i told IRNA that recent developments in this Persian Gulf country are internal affairs, adding that the calm transfer of power in Qatar is not expected to have considerable affects on the world oil markets.

Oil production quota of Qatar in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is 378,000 barrels per day while the known oil reserves of the country is estimated to be around 3.7 billion barrels.

Referring to the huge natural gas reserves in Qatar, Aqazadeh- Kho'i pointed to the effective role the country plays in the gas market prices.

Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the ex-amir of Qatar was ousted on Tuesday by his son, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani.

Following the development, officials in Doha announced that in the absence of any foreign interference, Qatar's oil policy would remain unchanged and the country's natural gas project would continue according to the schedule.

Official Addresses Ties With Moscow, Central Asia

LD2806093495 Tehran IRNA in English 0704 GMT 28 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 28, IRNA — A senior official at the Iranian Foreign Ministry said there is no rivalry between Tehran and Moscow in Central Asia as both are cooperating with each other for the betterment of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Foreign Ministry Director-General in Charge of Central Asia And the Caucasus Mohammad Reza Bakhtiari told the English-language daily IRAN NEWS, published Wednesday [28 June], "We believe that Russia's presence in Central Asia and the Caucasus is necessary."

Russia and Iran also share similar views and cooperate with each other in that strategically-important region in political and economic fields, he noted.

"We feel that Russia attaches great importance to its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran," he said, adding that over the past year several important developments witnessed in Irano-Russian ties in industrial field and construction of power plants.

He stated that Russia also expressed interest in participation in oil and petrochemical industries.

The diplomat announced that feasibility studies have been conducted for the plans such as oil exploration and construction of an oil refinery for which further steps would be taken soon.

The most important aspect of Russia-Iran relations is that Moscow never bowed before the U.S. pressure, he said referring to the last month summit meeting between President Bill Clinton with Boris Yeltsin.

Clinton appealed to Yeltsin to stop economic cooperation with Iran but the Russian president refused to accept his request, the paper quoted BAKHTIARI as saying.

"Russia is firm in its friendship with Iran and continues cooperation with the Islamic Republic at the international level," he said, adding that bilateral relations reached a level of close confidence and "we can both rely on each other."

Commenting on Tajikistan's domestic situation, Bakhtiari noted that the best solution to the Tajik problem is democracy with the participation of all groups and political factions. He added that all rival factions should be united and respect each other's political ideologies.

"I don't think armed struggle could do any good to the Central Asian republic of Tajikistan," rather, he said, all factions should sit down at the negotiation table to iron out their differences.

He voiced Iran's readiness to provide the necessary help for mediation, as all factions have full confidence in the role of the Islamic Republic.

Meanwhile, in a separate interview with another English-language daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, Bakhtiari described Iran's relations with the Central Asian republics as "good".

Of course, he mentioned, it should be dealt upon separately and ties with one should be distinguished from the other.

Commenting on Tajikistan crisis and its possible impact on bilateral relations, he said, "we were the first country to officially recognize their independence after the historic disintegration of the [word indistinct] Soviet Union. We also were the first to set up our embassy there. But the current rulership developed problems with the earlier coalition government and couldn't operate as initially agreed."

"The civil war erupted to the extent that it overshadowed these links. But we never allowed our relations to get disrupted with the government authorities, the people and the opposition."

After major differences emerged between the Islamic opposition and the ruling party, and later intensified, the opposition settled in Iran and the Islamic Republic tried to sustain its cordial relations with them, he noted.

On the other hand, Bakhtiari stressed, we also maintained ties with the ruling government at a "good" level and in practice played a mediating role between the two sides.

So far, four rounds of talks have been held, he said, adding that the most notable issue is that in September and after Iran's relentless attempts to solve the Tajik crisis, political consultations between the warring groups commenced in the presence of the U.N., Iran, Russia and Pakistan in Tehran.

"All the involved groups, observer countries and the U.N. secretary-general appreciated this initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran," Bakhtiari underlined.

Commenting on the flow of visitors from the Central Asian republics to the country, he said in recent years the Islamic Republic of Iran has been trying to promote tourism industry.

"We have realized that to introduce our country and achievements to the outside world, we have to allow citizens from those countries who are familiar with our traditions and beliefs, or have similar customs to travel to our land, witness its progress and personally discover the truth about Iran," the Foreign Ministry diplomat reiterated.

Available information shows that these people have conducted their travels in adherence to cultural and spiritual values, he said, adding, "we trust the continuity of this trend will help introduce our rich culture and heritage to these newly liberated nations which for seven decades were deprived of having links with Iran."

Commenting on the Caspian Sea legal regime, Bakhtiari stated that at the time when the Soviet Union existed, the sea was shared between itself and Iran and accordingly there were only two accords in which the type of ruling legal system over the Caspian Sea had been elaborated.

After some of the littoral states gained independence, problems cropped up concerning the legality of the use of the Caspian Sea, he said, "we did accept that each of them should have certain rights to the sea."

Some two years ago with Iran's initiatives it was suggested that a Caspian Sea littoral states cooperation organization be established but "due to some unilateral measures taken by some of the littoral countries, this issue still remains unresolved."

We have always maintained that no unilateral activities by the littoral states should be carried out in the Caspian Sea area, Bakhtiari stressed, adding "we believe that any unilateral action will be to the disadvantage of these littoral states which also have equal rights, thereby eliminating their legal privileges."

"We are trying to reach a mutual understanding with them until the new regime is defined so that the resources of the sea are equally shared and every member respects the ruling body," KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL quoted him as saying.

Rafsanjani Terms 'Ulema 'Messengers of Islam'

LD2406134995 Tehran IRNA in English
1333 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 24, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here on Saturday [24 June] that 'ulema are the messengers of Islam who should have a role in the destiny and in spiritual life of society.

Speaking in a meeting with representatives of the Islamic Propagation Organization (IPO), he said that keeping with the present conditions of their society, the Iranian people should adapt their life to the sublime principles of Islam and to this end the 'ulema shoulder the heavy duty of propagating Islamic teachings and enlightening people spiritually.

Underscoring the important role the 'ulema play in society and in state institutions, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that lack of the 'ulema's enlightening presence would harm the society and the administration.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the present generation need the responsive role of the 'ulema in propagting Islamic teachings and therefore the 'ulema should master social and international issues so as to give answers to various questions posed by people in society. He said the 'ulema are architects of the Islamic revolution and promoting the revolution requires further efforts on their part to meet the needs of the society.

Before the president's speech, the head of IPO gave a report on the activities of the IPO representatives at ministries and other institutes loated in various provinces.

Rafsanjani Pays Tribute to Party 'Martyrs'

LD2806135695 Tehran IRNA in English
1344 GMT 28 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 28, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here on Wednesday [28 June] paid tribute to 72 martyrs of the Islamic Republic Party who died in a bomb blast in Tehran on June 28, 1981.

The president was speaking in a meeting with the bereaved families of the 72 top officials martyred in bombing of the Islamic Republic Party by the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO).

He said the enemies of the Islamic revolution after recognizing the importance of the revolutionary personalities and coming to the conclusion that the nation rejects the terrorist grouplet, resorted to the worst crimes, unprecendented in history.

The terrorist grouplet sided with the enemies of Islam, the country and nation, launched terrorist attacks, spied for the enemies of the state and spared no crime in its desperate attempt to attain ominious goals, President Rafsanjani said.

He said confrontation between the just and unjust is inevitable in history and human life and that just faces mischievous enemies. [sentence as received] That is why the Islamic Republic of Iran has enemies such as the global arrogance and the mischievous MKO, he added.

He expressed sorrow that the Islamic revolution lost great personalities including Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti, Mohammad 'Ali Rajae'i and Mohammad Javad Bahonar and that the blood of these martyrs unmasked the MKO revealing their ugly face.

Rafsanjani Meets With Visiting Pakistani Official

LD2606113595 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received Pakistani Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Shaikh.

At the meeting, Najmuddin Shaikh conveyed the warmest greetings of his country's president and prime minister to the Iranian president, and said: Pakistan places particular importance on its relations with Iran as a big neighboring country, and it wishes to see an ever increasing sincere friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

The Pakistani foreign secretary expressed gratitude for the Islamic Republic of Iran's humanitarian efforts to create a climate of understanding between India and Pakistan, and to help solve the problem of Kashmir.

For his part, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani described Pakistan as a friendly neighboring country and said: The volume of agreements reached between the two countries and regional cooperation, especially with regard to Afghanistan, dictate that the two countries' officials do more and hold more meetings toward exchanging views and implementing the agreements.

The president spoke of the Kashmir issue as a serious problem in the way of creating and expediting the required regional cooperation between the three countries of Iran, India, and Pakistan, and said: The leaders of India and Pakistan must act with wisdom and concern for what is most beneficial in order to find a suitable solution to this problem.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the proposed project for the transfer of natural gas from Iran to Pakistan and from Pakistan to India, and said: The realization of this project can, apart from the economic benefits, have very positive political effects toward establishing peace and security in the region, especially between India and Pakistan.

Daily Reports on Accords Signed With Pakistan

95LA0272E Tehran RESALAT in Persian 27 May 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Islamabad (IRNA)—The Arak Machine Manufacturing Company won the international bid to build a bridge in Karachi, Pakistan, and signed an agreement to implement it.**

The bridge will be built in one of the most populated areas of Karachi. The projected implementation will require about $11 million and will take 12 months.

The agreement on the building of this bridge, which is a metal frame type, was signed by Engineer Ebrahimi, the general manager of the Arak Machine Manufacturing Company, and the mayor of Karachi on Thursday in Karachi.

The Iranian ambassador in Islamabad told IRNA in this connection: The proposal of the Iranian company was much better in terms of quality, cost, and implementation time compared to those of the foreign contractors.

Akhundzadeh, the Iranian ambassador in Pakistan, said: Arak Machine Manufacturing won this bid in competition with several countries, and the signing of the contract is a credit to the activities of Iranian companies.

In addition, the Iranian ambassador announced that a new contract was also signed in the past few days between the two countries for the purchase of 50,000 additional tons of rice from Pakistan.

Iran had also signed an agreement to buy 100,000 tons of rice with Pakistan, the delivery of which has begun.

*KEYHAN Advocates Tax Reform, Exemptions

*95LA0250A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
6, 7, 8 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text]

[6 May, p 5]

Professional taxpayers—that is, those with fixed incomes—have a negligible share of the 55,000 billion rial [R] cash flow of the country, yet they comprise the major tax resource of the country. Taxes in our country have a troublesome history. Those who have huge incomes pay a trivial amount compared to their income. They know how to avoid paying taxes. The clandestine methods of transactions and lack of strong supervision by the tax system, etc., have made this possible. Considering that the income is clear and the rates are specified, salary earners pay their paltry income taxes, taxes that by no means conform to their level of income or the increase in their living expenditures.

In this situation, upon the instructions of the president, the issue of reducing the taxes of salary earners was put on the agenda of the responsible organizations in order for steps to be taken after the subject is studied.

Perhaps you are one of the professional taxpayers. Like it or not, tax withholdings are made from your insignificant income every month. You do not know how to evade the payment of taxes. Besides, such violations do not even exist in your mind. Tax evasion is particular to those with several million tumans in income.

Taxes and the Traditional System

This clear fact cannot be ignored, that the economy of our country, especially the market of trade, moves on a course of traditional relationships. The economic system that is evolved under such conditions has certain characteristics, the most predominant of which is the inequality regarding the payment of taxes. The consequences of traditional economy appear in the arena of culture and the economy. For this reason, at the present time many of those with high incomes consider tax evasion not a violation but a sort of calculated shrewdness.

Most citizens with monthly incomes of several million believe that taxes are an imposition. They do not by any means consider taxes as a just right of the government and a tool for providing for the public expenditures. Unfortunately, in the arena of values and beliefs as well, little attention is paid to the payment of taxes. Many of those with high incomes, despite their belief in moral standards and religious values, do not consider tax evasion an immoral act and feel that they have the right to do it. What factors cause those with high incomes, despite believing in observing the law and morality, to refuse to pay taxes? The answer to this question must be sought in the structure of the traditional economy and the new systems of economic management. Even though the collection of tributes and taxes has a long history in our country, the collection of taxes in today's form, based on a new system, is an imported system. In the distant past, too, people considered the payment of tributes to the rulers to be an imposition, but the use of the new methods particular to civilized societies for the collection of taxes has made the situation more difficult.

From the beginning of this new method of economic management of the country, the traditional economy has set its standards against this imported phenomenon. The old, traditional standards of the economy are not by any means compatible with those on which the new systems are based. Based on the traditional viewpoints, the payment of tributes or taxes, or whatever else you call them, means nothing but strengthening the ruling power. In other words, it is money spent by the government from the people's pockets. The traditional viewpoint forms the belief that no individual or system has the right to forcibly take away the results of anyone's efforts. Such a notion has dominated the tax collection system of the country for many years, and the main reason for the inefficiency of that system is the existence of such a notion and its consequences.

Knowing this, would you not be astonished to see an 85-year-old man who absolutely believes in moral and religious values craftily evade the payment of taxes? A merchant who, without any pangs of conscience, falsifies his books, certainly in the arena of his values has some acceptable reason for engaging in such an illegal and immoral act. The presence of the shortcomings and deep problems in the tax collection system of the country must be sought in the spectrum of such incorrect thoughts.

Welfare, Taxes, and Evading the Law

The root of the pressure of taxes on the salary earners and people with fixed incomes must be sought in the evasion of those with high incomes of paying taxes. Taxes are considered a source of revenue for the government, and every year in the budget law a certain amount is projected as tax revenues. When the experience of several consecutive years indicated that the projected revenues from people with high incomes are not at the projected level, the government increased the tax rate of salary earners. In fact, those with high incomes consider taxes to be an imposition on them but do not pay the rightful taxes of the government, and the government is forced to increase the tax pressure on the salary earners, whereby ultimately, the payment of more taxes will be imposed on the salary earning stratum. Experts believe that in societies in which people with high incomes evade the payment of taxes, at an equivalent level the pressure of paying taxes increases on the salary earners and those with fixed incomes.

The general welfare program has as its goal the establishment of a balance in everything. On the basis of such a program, everyone pays taxes proportionate to his income, and the government uses the collected taxes to provide the resources to raise the level of public welfare.

In the opinion of experts, taxes are one of the major tools for balancing distribution. By making use of this tool, the government can create a balance in the distribution of income throughout society. By making use of tax resources, the government can carry out the developmental investments. In countries in which the tax system performs well in balancing distribution, taxes collected from people with high incomes are spent on raising the standard of living of the middle- and low-income strata. In these countries, the rich constantly make the government feel so indebted to them that through the taxes they have paid, it has implemented large national projects. In countries in which the tax system does not function well and does not have the necessary efficiency, however, it is the low-income workers and the salary earners who pay the share of those with huge incomes. Salary earners pay taxes regularly. Their income is specific and the rate of their taxes constantly goes up. Those with fixed incomes complain about such a method of tax collection. A group of workers in a government-affiliated company, addressing the KEYHAN News Service, wrote in a letter:

"We workers pay the government the largest tax figure compared to our income. To prove this point, it must be said that last year the rate of inflation, which grew by more than 100 percent with regard to foodstuff and other goods, resulted in the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs announcing a salary increase of about 20 percent for workers. Along with it, however, with the increase in income, we workers must pay more in taxes. In fact, not only have they not given us a raise, but we must, with the same salary, have the burden of inflation on our shoulders, which is an additional injustice. Hence, we ask the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and the executive officials of the country to raise the tax ceiling of workers to be able to have some degree of stability vis-a-vis the uncontrolled prices."

'Abbas Purmoqaddam, a government employee, said: "Every month I must pay more than 10 percent of my small income in taxes. Any additional salary is subject to taxes. If I work several hours instead of resting at home, because of the increase in income and the graduated rates, I must pay more taxes. Here I have a basic question to which I have not received a proper answer, no matter where I have asked it: Why is it that, when as a result of hard work, my 300,000-tuman income, for instance, increases to 50,000 tumans, the graduated tax system, without any pause, carefully and in a calculated manner starts working and collects taxes to the last rial on the basis of graduated rates, while a dealer or salesman whose existence makes no difference in the society is forgotten when it comes to tax collection, despite incomes of several million tumans?

"Those with fixed incomes generally want the ceiling of incomes that are exempt from taxes to be raised. They say, at the present, that the level of income that is exempted from the payment of taxes is very low, considering the great increase in expenditures. Hence, the government must exempt the revenues of the salary earners from taxes up to the level of an ordinary living. In response to such a request, some experts believe that even if the government exempts all employees from the payment of taxes, considering the high level of their expenditures, they will not make a proper living. The solution is to collect taxes from the high-income people and invest it in national welfare."

[7 May, p 5]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Last summer, the minister of economic affairs and finance promised to modify the taxes on the salaries of government employees. According to the statements of the minister of economic affairs and finance, 20 percent will be added to the level of tax exemption of government employees' salaries. Based on the new rate, that group of employees with incomes up to 22,000 tumans will not pay taxes. In its search for major tax sources, the government does not consider it very proper to collect taxes from the salaried strata, but apparently, the plan to identify the major tax sources—that is, those with huge incomes—has not reached the appropriate results. Secret transactions that take place on the basis of a traditional economy are the chief obstacle to the government's access to large tax sources.**

The minister of economic affairs and finance believes that the taxes of the government employees must be modified. He considers revenues that are the result of pressure on government employees inappropriate and says:

"In order for the purchasing power of the salaried classes, particularly the government employees, to increase, several mechanisms have been devised. First is the creation of special facilities for government employees in the area of housing, health and treatment, and social insurance, and second is a decrease in a significant percentage of the tax levels paid by them because in practice, these revenues are not logical for the government." According to the government plan announced some time go, in addition to the bill on increasing the coefficient of the salaries and benefits of the employees, which is being prepared, the ceiling of the employees' salary tax exemption of the employers will increase by 20 percent.

Modification of the Taxes of Salary Earners

At the present time, government employers with monthly incomes of 18,000 tumans are exempt from taxes. Amounts exceeding this level will be subject to taxes on a graduated scale. Salary earners covered by social security are also exempt from taxes up to the level of 15,000 tumans monthly income. According to an expert, the tariffs of the taxes on the salaries of government employees and workers covered by the labor law were implemented three years ago. Considering the increase in prices, especially in the past few months, the tax exemption ceiling and rates are by no means compatible with the economic and living conditions of the employees and workers. Hence, a revision of the salary earners' tax rates is an essential priority.

At the present, in order to collect taxes on the salaries of workers covered by the labor law, the gradual rates of 12 percent, 18 percent, 25 percent, 35 percent, 40 percent, 45 percent, 50 percent, 52 percent, and 54 percent are used. Regarding government employees as well, these rates are used to calculate the taxes. Considering the percentages on the basis of which high-income people pay taxes, the use of the coefficients of 45 percent, 50 percent, and 54 percent to calculate the taxes of the salary earners is clearly unjust. The salary earners or the professional taxpayers have interesting things to say in this regard. Qasem Bahari, a worker covered by the labor law, says regarding the necessity to modify the taxes of salary earners: "Last year, despite a great deal of effort, my annual income was less than 400,000 tumans. The taxes on this amount were deducted from my salary every month on the basis of rates that the government has announced. This is while one of my friends, who works in the business of buying and selling clothing, according to himself, has had an income of at least 700,000 tumans per month and has paid only 50,000 tumans in annual taxes. Is it fair for a person with an annual income of 379,000 tumans to pay more than 67,000 tumans—that is, 22 percent of his income—for taxes while a person with an annual income of at least 8.4 million tumans pays only 50,000 tumans—that is, only 0.5 percent of his income—in taxes?"

A government employee says: "A government employee with more than 15 years of service must pay more than 20 percent of his salary in taxes. If the tax system were as decisive regarding people with private businesses who have high incomes, the country's revenue situation would be much better than it is today."

An employee of one of the government departments who has served for 25 years says: "Private business people, from public bath owners to jewelers, all have guild organizations and unions. They protest any sort of tax increase through their representatives, and in many cases the tax levels of the guild members are set on the consent of the representative of that guild, but government employees are in practice deprived of such a right."

Another citizen says: "If the tax collection regulations were implemented with regard to people with high incomes in the same way that they are for government employees and workers, then we would not have any roads that are not paved or villages without electricity; education in the country would be rid of its problems; and financial problems would not result in the decline in the quality of education. Private business people who have high incomes have shown that they are not willing to pay taxes, whereas the salary earners automatically pay taxes from their paltry incomes every month. Those with high incomes evade tax payments in a variety of ways. It is enough for you to look at the newspapers to see that, for example, an investor in 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988]—that is, eight years ago—has sold a piece of property in the most expensive area in Tehran and has not yet taken any step to pay taxes on it.

In order to collect taxes from such people, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance has published an announcement and is forming various committees to perhaps collect the rightful taxes of the government. Unfortunately, in most cases, the final winner of these meetings, under any pretext whether it is exemption or discount, will be the taxpayer."

A look at the personal expenditures and cost of announcements for various meetings to collect taxes from defaulting taxpayers on the whole make up a significant amount that can be spent on necessary uses, if the private business owners do their duty. According to one of the experts, presently the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance of our country spends most of its energy on preventing tax violations. In this ministry, all of the redundancies and excessive administrative services are due to the default of large taxpayers, whereas if we did not have the problem of tax evasion on such a widespread level, we could cut down the size of the organizations of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance several fold.

In Search of Large Tax Sources

The government salary earners and workers are the best taxpayers in the country, but this is neither sufficient nor fair. Experts believe that we must go after the main tax sources; that is, people with huge incomes. When the president emphasizes the reductions in the salary earners' taxes and this issue is put on the agenda of the responsible organizations for implementation and again, the unfairness of the collection of taxes from salary earners is noted, the level of taxes on those with fixed incomes, on the one hand, considering the income and the high living expenses and, on the other, compared to taxes that are paid by those with huge incomes, seems very unjust.

According to experts, if the tax pressure is supposed to be reduced on the salary earners, and at the same time government revenues are not to suffer, other tax sources must be pursued. According to the officials of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, work on equipping the systems to collect taxes from high-income people was started some time ago. Among the steps taken by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance to find major tax sources, the "implementation of the economic code program" is a most distinct one.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance calls the economic code one of the gains of the Second Developmental Plan and a tool that prevents the middleman activities and the useless movement of goods.

Based on the new regulations, the production centers of the country are not allowed to sell products to individuals who do not have an economic code, and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance has obliged those who are involved in economic activities in the area of transporting goods and services at the level above R1 million to acquire an economic code.

According to officials, the government decisionmaking concerning the decrease in taxes of salary earners indicates the equipping and preparing of the tax system of the country to collect taxes from major tax sources. The use of the economic code is the first essential step to break down secret transactions, transactions in which middlemen leave behind no trace. In many countries in the world, large and medium transactions are done through a computer network and recorded, and since the tax system is connected to it, simultaneous with the transaction, the related taxes are deducted and deposited in a national finance account. For this reason, the use of advanced systems to identify and collect taxes from major tax sources is necessary.

[8 May, p 5]

[FBIS Translated Text] **The tax system of the country is not in line with supporting production activities. In the tax law of the country, that group of exemptions that help the industry and production thrive are seen less often. Production investors are obliged to pay 52 percent of their income in taxes. On the other hand, many commercial activities do not pay much in taxes. These instances and many other shortcomings make the necessity of reforming the tax law obvious.**

In addition to being a source of revenue for the government and a tool for the redistribution and balance of revenues in the society, taxes can have a significant role in giving direction to economic policies. According to the experts, the present tax law does not have sufficient potential and capacity for the growth and development programs. In many instances, that law creates problems in the implementation of the programs and production activities. For this reason, in order to counter such problems, the officials point out the necessity of reforming the tax law. They believe that reforming the tax law and having it lean toward production will provide a suitable course for the implementation and advancement of production programs.

Change in the Tax System and Production

Studies show that the present tax law is not compatible with the large and small production programs of the country. Dr. Bahman Arman, an economic analyst and university professor, says in regard to reforming the tax law:

"The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance has been studying it for two years, and the tax law is supposed to be reformed. The next Majles elections are near. For this reason, the ratification of the tax law must be pursued more rapidly. Otherwise, we will face problems."

Dr. Arman adds: "Taxes are not merely considered a tool for providing resources for countries. Taxes are not only a source of government revenues but determine the political and economic policies of the government. By collecting various taxes, the government can give direction to consumption in the society.

"For example, according to our tax law at the present, regarding imported goods, taxes are collected as customs duties such that they escalate domestic consumption and, in this way, make the entry of foreign goods inexpensive. In industrial countries, the decrease in the price of oil even on the world markets has no direct effect on domestic consumption, because governments, by increasing taxes on oil imports, keep the prices artificially high in order not to encourage the consumer to consume more. On the whole, our tax law does not support domestic production. Domestic trade has always been strengthened and production activities have been a target of direct and indirect taxes of various sorts. Most commercial activities are not subject to the payment of taxes, but production activities are subject to heavy taxes on several levels. About 40 percent of the tax revenues of the country are procured from company taxes. This means that other activities, and particularly commercial activities, are not subject to the payment of very much in taxes. We have numerous activities in the country that make huge profits but do not pay taxes. When the owners of such activities pay taxes, the amounts are so insignificant that they do not reflect their actual activities."

In the opinion of experts opposed to the tax pressures on the salary earners and production activities, the government must identify other sources. Dr. Bahman Arman says in this connection:

"The government has forgotten taxes and tax sources and essentially has not tried to find the center. For this reason, the share of taxes in gross national production is low. This means that we have been unable to find basic solutions in devising our tax policies. In order to reform the taxes, we must create tax incentives in a way that production pays lower taxes and consumption much higher taxes.

"At the present, in order to reconstruct Abadan and other war-stricken regions, like all countries in the world, we must give tax exemptions to all production units that are created there. The Abadan region has been severely damaged as a result of the imposed war. In order to reconstruct and attract native and non-native people, we badly need production investments to create jobs. The way the government and the tax law have dealt with such a problem has been quite alienating. In other words, the importance of the issue has not been realized. For this reason, those who have engaged in production investments there ask the government that they be exempted from taxes for 10 years. Such instances should have been anticipated in the law. Also, the government should be able to obtain the permission for such exemptions by sending a single article to the Majles."

People's Participation and the New Tax System

Economic experts believe that the stock market is an appropriate arena for attracting people's participation and moving floating capital toward production activities. Officials believe that the present tax law has slowed down people's investments in production through the stock market. For this reason, fundamental reforms in this area are necessary. A stock market expert in our country suggests in this connection:

"The composition of the collection of taxes in the country has essentially, from the beginning, not been in support of production agencies. For example, while in other countries tax exemptions are a basic tool for guiding financial resources toward production activities, the composition of tax collection in Iran is such that in the course of the second half of the 1360s [21 March 1981-20 March 1991], about 40 percent of government tax revenues (direct taxes) were provided through the collection of taxes from production and service companies."

This issue, despite the basic goal of the Tehran Stock Market to collect the small investments and concentrate them in large economic units, has also extended to companies that are accepted on the stock market so that the existing tax system is such that in practice it does not create the necessary incentive in the companies to enter the stock market. For this reason, it is necessary for the issue of taxes concerning the companies, particularly those accepted on the stock market, to be seriously and competently studied and revised. The suggestions, in three different areas, are categorized and offered as follows:

Companies accepted on the stock market
Partnership papers
Investment companies accepted o the stock market

The first corrective step that must be done most rapidly is to eliminate the existing ambiguities and contradictions in the present law, especially in the chapter on acceptable and unacceptable tax expenditures that become an excuse for issuing unusual tax assessments. The standardization of the basis for determining the sources of income and the expenditures of companies is a great help in determining more correctly the company profits that are subject to taxes.

The second step is to equip the specialized cadre in the tax dispute arbitration committees that is supposed to maintain tax fairness at the time of the issuance of the rulings.

The third rapid step is to examine the books and tax statements of accepted companies on the stock market and if possible trust the examinations by expert auditors and not reexamine them.

In addition to the above steps that do not require amending the law, the following things must also be done through legal amendments:

- the elimination of the 3 percent share of the City Hall for accepted companies on the stock market;
- the elimination of taxes on the profit of shares cited in Article 131 of the direct tax law, provided every shareholder has less than 1 percent of the total shares. (Taxes cited in Article 131 regarding other shareholders, the number of whose shares exceed this level, shall continue to be collected at the fixed rate of 12 percent.);
- the granting of tax exemptions on the savings and reserves of companies that are accepted on the stock market, provided those savings and reserves are used in the same company for the development of production base. The period necessary to use the savings and reserves should be set at seven years from the date of the inclusion of savings.

Companies that issue partnership papers should be allowed to include the partial payment of profit to owners of partnership papers as acceptable expenditures in their books.

In order for the completion of developmental and industrial projects on time and reduction of government expenditures, related government developmental and industrial organizations will be obliged to secure that part of the financial resources of the project that have not been provided through the general budget, through the sale of partnership papers. The importance and the role of partnership papers in creating variety in the valuable papers that can be traded on the Tehran Stock Market is another factor to which attention must be paid. Hence, all the resources must be utilized for the successful implementation of the sale of these papers. One of these resources is the amendment of the direct tax law in a way that the profit on shares paid to the owners of these papers are exempt from taxes. The profit paid on papers should be accepted from the point of view of the company that issues them as acceptable tax expenditures and as a result the taxes of the company decrease.

Investment companies, more than 60 percent of whose shares belong to the public and the private sector, should be exempted from the payment of any sort of double taxes in investing in the parent and other companies.

Interview With Former Mojahedin Member

95LA0258d Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 10 May 95 pp 11, 19

[Interview with Mr. 'Edalatian, former member of the People's Mojahedin Organization and mini-group infiltrator, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Some time ago, one of the former supporters of the group known as the People's Mojahedin Organization, after completing his mission as an infiltrator in Iraq under the guidance of the Ministry of Information of the Islamic Republic of Iran and returning to the country, in a televised interview expressed his opinions regarding the necessity of and ways to infiltrate the counterrevolutionary mini-groups and the depth of the dependence of these mini-groups on foreign spy organizations.**

Since this interview was very long, we have selected some parts that concern the issue of infiltration, which follow:

[KEYHAN-E HAVA'I] Mr. 'Edalatian, first tell us your views on infiltrating the counterrevolutionary mini-groups and the Hypocrites, and then we will discuss your specific assignment.

['Edalatian] The need for this discussion was due to the various kinds of conspiracies that take place against the Islamic revolution. In other words, in order to protect the gains of the revolution in all arenas and areas and make advancements, the issue of intelligence and counterintelligence work against the enemies of Islam was raised. One of the existing issues in the general area of intelligence is infiltration into enemy forces, including the Zionist circles and the counterrevolutionary mini-groups, a part of which concerns the Hypocrite mini-group.

In the course of the past years, we witnessed that the Hypocrites engaged in disturbances in cities, taking advantage of the open political climate, and tried, by infiltrating government centers and ultimately military actions, to disturb the existing calm. Even in 1360 [21 March 1981-20 March 1982] and 1361 [21 March 1982-20 March 1983], they were able to engage in assassinations on the streets, killing people or placing bombs, but with the constant and persistent actions of the Ministry of Information, this mini-group has been virtually eliminated. Only the remnants of it have been able to survive outside the country on a limited scale.

Infiltration is a preventive element inside the mini-groups and a mechanism for the discovery of and access to information to counter the conspiracies. The infiltration forces in the Hypocrites organization act as informers that, by getting access to the conspiracies that are under way, neutralize them prior to their being able to engage in any action.

On the whole, intelligence gathering pursues a comprehensive goal, which is to have influence at all levels.

[KEYHAN-E HAVA'I] Up to which level did you infiltrate?

['Edalatian] God granted us success, and we achieved our goals. In the division, concerning the dispatch of forces into the country and creating disturbances on borders, I advanced to the level of decisionmaking. In other words, I was fully knowledgeable about the planning process of the operations, the times, [words illegible], the number of people, and the level of coordination with the Iraqi Government.

[KEYHAN-E HAVA'I] Under the sensitive and history making conditions of the revolution, I think that this mini-group will have no position or value. Considering the assignment you mentioned as being very successful, I want to know the goals of the Ministry of Information with regard to infiltration. Does this action not mean giving validity to and engaging excessively in the activities of this mini-group?

['Edalatian] When we have a social discussion, we can say that the Hypocrites have zero importance socially. But when we look at the issue from the perspective of the Ministry of Information, we realize that we should not underestimate the enemies, even if they have no role in the society, because the oppressors may even make use of them.

In every assignment of the Ministry of Information, specific objectives are determined for the infiltrating person, which—whether the operations are short-term or long-term—concern that specific case, are regarded as confidential, and everyone must pursue them himself.

There are also other goals that are in common among all the infiltration operations into the Hypocrite mini-group. Also, one of the points that makes the issue of the mini-groups important for us is the presence of the Hypocrites in Iraq and the creation of disturbances on the border. Sometimes they may come with five or six people and install mines or attack a stronghold and enter our soil, and we must prevent such actions. Regarding goals, I think I had better talk about these common goals. Collecting information concerning the relationship between the Hypocrites and foreign services, evaluation of the forces of the Hypocrites in military terms and their level of capability and equipment, access to their tricks to deceive young Iranians abroad, and access to information concerning the relationship of the Hypocrites with Iraq are the common goals of the infiltration network, which I will explain further.

[KEYHAN-E HAVA'I] One of the instances that you referred to is the discovery of a relationship between the Hypocrites and espionage services. Certainly, the goal of such relationships is to provide information. So far, the actions of this group verifies this issue. Explain the information sources of the Hypocrites in the country and abroad.

['Edalatian] Regarding the Hypocrites' relationship with espionage services, the issue is not merely providing information. After facing obstacles and suffering blows, the Hypocrites have mostly tried to place the organization at the disposal of espionage services, and of course a part of this relationship concerns collecting information and placing it at their disposal.

For example, in 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988], with the coordination of the Saudi Government, the Hypocrites sent a team ahead of time to Mecca and participated in the massacre of the pilgrims. You see that here the transfer of information is not an issue at all. Regarding the slaughter of the Shi'ites and Kurds in Iraq, the transfer of information is not an issue at all, and they act as tools for the Iraqi Government. There are documents available in this connection, and even some of the forces participating in these operations have committed suicide.

In any case, what you referred to is true. Considering that they are Iranians and familiar with the Persian language, they place their information at the disposal of these services, and one of their information sources is "telephone unloading."

They make telephone contact from abroad and in Iraq or various places, and by asking very ordinary questions, collect information about the budget, methods of work, changes, etc., in an organization or ministry.

Of course, the officials of the country are fully aware and have been briefed on this issue. These contacts are not on a large scale.

Another source of information for the Hypocrites is the domestic press and newspapers. They transmit the news and information published in our own newspapers as secret information to the espionage services.

The issue of cooperation with the services has various aspects, the most essential of which concerns cooperation with the Security Agency of Iraq, so that telephone unloading is done mostly from Iraq. Another part of this is related to their cooperation with the Information Agency of Jordan. A major part of their work in foreign countries is also for the European and Western intelligence services, particularly the U.S. intelligence agency.

Another source of information for them, especially during the war and now on the borders, is listening to radio conversations, for which they make use of Iraqi strongholds.

For example, we might refer to the information on the Hypocrites' so-called maneuvers. One item of information that they uncovered was that, due to economic problems and executive weaknesses, Iran is unable to produce oil at the level of the ceiling determined by OPEC, and precisely a few days later, they announced that due to foreign debts and economic problems, Iran will exceed the production ceiling set by OPEC.

[KEYHAN-E HAVA'I] What do you think is the opinion of various people who are familiar with the organization in connection with your work?

['Edalatian] Everyone reacts differently, and certainly the people who up to yesterday thought that the organization has an impenetrable wall and is a strong fortress will realize that it is not so. A person from the Islamic Republic can go easily, perform his job according to the plan, neutralize the terrorist and the inhuman actions of the organization, and return.

[KEYHAN-E HAVA'I] To what extent did you succeed in the goals you enumerated and your own particular goal in the infiltration?

['Edalatian] Thank God, we achieved the goal we had in mind. My objective was achieved in the course of over a year in Iraq, and I made a safe return. Since those goals are now secret and some dear brothers are continuing that work, they cannot be discussed. The main point is that today, the Hypocrites are facing a problem referred to as a crisis of infiltration, and they do not trust those around them by any means. Now, the leader of the Hypocrites cannot trust those around him either. He lives in a place which is under the protection of Iraqi forces, and his forces do not go there. People are checked with electronic devices so that no one carries a metal object.

The issue of infiltration into the organization has now created a crisis. Note the recent statements by people who have left the organization, when in their interviews they have discussed the sensitivity of the leaders of the organization regarding this issue. The Hypocrites dismissed 14 people all at once in Germany alone because they were suspicious of one of them.

[KEYHAN-E HAVA'I] When the problem is in this form, naturally, infiltration also becomes more difficult. Now my question is: What are the methods and tools of infiltration?

['Edalatian] The more alert they become, the more difficult it will be for them to counter infiltration. This is an issue that cannot be discussed now. God willing, with the total elimination of the Hypocrites, it will become clear that what I say is correct. The more alert they became, the more problems they will face, and as a result of these problems, we will be able to infiltrate them more easily.

Regarding the issue of tools and strategies, we should remember our brothers in the Ministry of Information, these unknown and true soldiers of the imam of the age, who after the necessary training sent us on this mission. They regularly observe the developments in the organization and, on the basis of the latest developments, choose tools that I cannot specify because they are confidential. One of the issues in these training sessions is how the infiltrating element uses the nature of the existing elements within the framework of the organization in which they enter. There are many such elements inside the Hypocrites organization.

One of the main principles of the Hypocrites mini-group is that dictatorship governs all their relationships. In other words, even if an individual is sharp enough and discovers that a person is an infiltrator, they will not accept it from him because they absolutely believe that everything must move from top down. Another problem that was taken advantage of was the censorship that governs the organization. Essentially, the forces that are present in Iraq have no contact with the outside world and only are shown a half-hour video program that they make themselves every day.

There, an effort is made to mostly keep the members busy with secondary and internal matters so that they will not be involved in outside issues.

Even though in humanitarian terms it is very unfortunate for a number of people to be under severe censorship, it is in itself a tool for infiltration. Another existing tool is the issue of "feminism." They say that women are a superior gender, and a woman, even if she is illiterate and incompetent, must govern.

[KEYHAN-E HAVA'I] Do they really believe in this or do they pretend to?

['Edalatian] Essentially, the issue of belief with regard to the Hypocrites is meaningless. The Hypocrites do not believe in anything. When they express this opinion regarding women, it is because the leader of the Hypocrites, in his experiences after the revolution and after being released from prison, reached the conclusion that men are questioning individuals who may leave if they are put under pressure. In any case, they do not obey him and do not accept his leadership. For this reason, he presented a series of theoretical discussions to support this issue and said that women must be free, because a woman who is under their captivity cannot leave the deserts of Iraq, and they can make her do whatever they want.

This is also a tool for infiltration. None of those Hypocrite women, who may even be in the high cadre of the Hypocrites, are able to resist our information gathering. I am talking from my own experience of several years. Whenever I faced a problem and wanted to find out about something, I went to one of these people and discovered it.

Another infiltration tool is the past history of the individuals, which is true in my own case.

The issue that is important for an infiltrator regarding the Hypocrites is to find their weak points and work on them. The perspective of the Ministry of Information regarding the Hypocrites is to avoid physical and military confrontation because all politicians agree that the military force of the Hypocrites is not even an issue by comparison with the Islamic Republic. Infiltration into the Hypocrite organization is not very complicated and secretive in terms of its intelligence aspects; in fact, the human aspects are important. Our primary goal is to break the mental blocks of the supporters. We want to aid and be a catalyst for the disintegration of the forces from within this organization. When the fighter airplanes of the Islamic Republic take off and bomb the Ashram camp in the depths of Iraqi territory, it is not to inflict casualties on them or, for instance, destroy one or two buildings. Rather, the goal is to break those blocks, and for the metamorphosed forces, who think all the capabilities of the world are only found in the organization, to realize that this is not so and that the Islamic Republic can easily come and strike them. Of course, ultimately it is also important that with these bombings, life and death become serious issues; this is why the forces leave.

What I must emphasize is the discovery of the internal information of the organization, the developments of which are being examined daily. For example, if Fereshteh Yeganeh goes from Iraq to Germany, in addition to her coming and going we examine the reasons and organizational motives of this trip on a daily basis, or we regularly examine the ways, time, and place of the meetings of the secret forces of the organization with the espionage services.

Another secret issue in the organization is the elimination of individuals who have problems and who have a lot of information. This is important for us to know. For instance, in 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994], the Hypocrites killed one of their own intelligence people named Sa'id Kiani, who, according to the Hypocrites' documents, as a person in charge of the institution had been identified as having problems. Then they announced that he had drowned in a river. Because he knew a great deal about the relationship with Iraqi intelligence, as soon as he developed a problem, they killed him near Basra.

In connection with the infiltration crisis, I must say that a 17-year-old, as a result of some problems, had come from the Ilam border to Iraq. In a meeting that we had in our division with Mehdi Madadi, Fereshteh Yeganeh, and 'Ali Shirazi, they could not analyze this individual and accused him of engaging in suspicious acts because he was very curious. They said if he is an infiltrator, we must kill him. Right there, someone asked, what if he is not an infiltrator? The answer was that the issue of infiltration was so important to them that even if he were not an infiltrator, they had to kill him because he seemed suspicious. Ultimately, they killed the person, whose name was Ja'far Kahzadmanesh, in a bogus accident and then announced that he had been shot accidentally. Discovering such issues is very important to us.

Of course for the Hypocrites, there are many secret issues that essentially are not considered information for us, and those are their ideological beliefs, such as collective divorces. They believe that every person must divorce his or her wife or husband. Or they believe that every woman belongs to the leader of the Hypocrites and is a possession of Rajavi. This issue is considered very confidential, and efforts are made not to have it leak out.

Another issue concerns the relationship of the head of the Hypocrites. Despite his trickery and treason, in the final analysis, he is a debaucher. Here it would be appropriate to refer to the information domination of the regime over the Hypocrites, including the bombing that took place in 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993]. It was precisely at the time that they had a very important meeting or at the time when the Iraqi air defense forces had gathered, and carrying out such operations requires little information. One of the tasks that makes the issue of information important is cooperation with the Iraqi intelligence services, about which we were well informed. This cooperation was done in two parts, exchange of information and military work. Iraqi intelligence and the Hypocrites made some agreements in 1372 to have a series of shows as maneuvers and say that they were carried out on the Iranian border, whereas these actions were engaged in 100 km from Iranian soil in a desert called "Hamreyn." Along with the Iraqis, they brought some cameramen and made about 30 hours of film from every hour of the maneuver and from various angles, and by editing them tried to make themselves appear powerful.

One of our greatest gains in these years is that the Hypocrites have not been able to discover even one infiltrator, which verifies the power and correctness of our training.

Of course, in order to have an answer for their forces and eliminate the atmosphere of despair and crisis, they send individuals who are about to leave as infiltrators to jail. For instance, recently they dismissed one of their intelligence people, Mahmud Daniali, as an infiltrator. We are certain, however, that if they found an infiltrator, they would not keep him alive.

In summing up all these goals, I say that our most essential goal is to break the mental blocks. If in the issue of Israel we separate the Zionists from the Jews, or in regards to the crimes of the oppressors we separate the government from the nations, here too, on a much smaller scale, we will separate the leaders of the organization from the deceived and metamorphosed individuals.

[KEYHAN-E HAVA'I] In your discussion, you referred to your own history of cooperation with the Hypocrites. If possible, could you explain this as well?

['Edalatian] The issue of the confrontation of the regime with its enemies and mini-groups from the beginning of the revolution was an ideological one. I was arrested in 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984] and even after being arrested was in the organization in prison. I saw that the regime dealt differently with the terrorists and gave books to those who picked up arms against it, saying: read and learn. From the beginning of the revolution, the regime tried to tell the young people not to be deceived by these deceptive slogans and said that if they say they are Muslims and anti-American, it is merely a slogan and not authentic. Unfortunately, under the influence of those conditions and the family environment, we did not accept these statements. On the other hand, we observed the actions of the organization, including its relationship with Zionist circles, cooperation with the Iraqi regime in the war, the assassination of defenseless people, and also the internal scandals, such as those that occurred in 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986]. On the other side, the officials of the regime told us that a sincere revolutionary must first settle his accounts concerning his own motivations and made us face our own consciences.

Perhaps no one has presented this list so far, but since the beginning of the revolution, dozens of small and large groups, trained by the Zionist forces, have been eliminated by the Ministry of Information, and a major part of the elimination was due to enlightenment among the supporters of these groups. Of course, "repentance" in Islamic values is a profound human reality.

[KEYHAN-E HAVA'I] In conclusion, please tell us if you have any explanation as to how you left and returned to our Islamic homeland.

['Edalatian] When the matters of coordination and training were completed and I joined the Hypocrite organization under guidance, for some time I worked for them in the country and gave them the information that we wanted to give, until it was decided that I should go to Iraq and carry out my specific assignment. At that time, I went to Jordan through Turkey and was sent to Iraq from there. As soon as I arrived, I was transferred to one of the secret basis of the Hypocrites, was given special training, and started working in connection with information on the borders and related issues. At that time, the Hypocrites, with the coordination of Iraqi intelligence, had the plan to create disturbances on the borders. In Farvardin 1372 [21 March-20 April 1993], I also came to Iran, and because my assignment was not completed, went back. The transfer of forces to the borders was done in secret. We were brought in the uniforms of the Iraqi presidential guards to the border, and it was based on the organization saying that some forces were doing these operations internally. It was doing this because of the Iraqi insistence that the regime not know that forces were entering through its borders, even though we knew this. In the same section, there were individuals who would give me information whenever I pumped them, like whenever I faced an information block. Among these were Ma'sumeh Malekmohammadi, Mehraneh Mastani, Fereshteh Yeganeh, Fazlollah Sami'ian, Mehdi Madadi, and Esma'il Morteza'i, who were among the old members of the Hypocrites. In any case, we were fully aware of everything. At that time, two of their teams were hit by the infiltrating people, and we did this in order to let them know that we knew where they came from and we were able to hit them. During this period, I did what I was assigned to do, and the brothers had said earlier that when my work was completed and I received this message to return through channels that were studied, I should come back. At this time, the teams started again because they did not want others to get involved in this issue and they did not want any new information to be obtained. Also, because of the training, they sent me for identification, and it was decided that we should examine the changes in the region; alongside us another team should carry out the operations. Of course, I already knew that their target was an empty stronghold, and they were told merely to give them an incentive to enter Iranian soil a few kilometers and fire a few shots and leave. What was interesting was that for these shots fired at the empty strongholds, the organization announced some astronomical figures regarding casualties and damages to the regime.

In any case, during the operations, they confronted a few border dwelling shepherds, whom they wanted to kill as "mercenaries of the regime," because they were told to kill anyone they saw. It was at this time that I stopped this action and opened fire on them and killed four of the Hypocrites. Of course, the officials of the organization heard about where they had been hit and showed my picture on Iraqi television as their martyred member and included my name as a person killed with others in their publication No. 336. Since they presented me as a martyr, I called Europe and told one or two people what I had done and returned. At that time, around Ilam, the Hypocrites wanted to explode the oil pipeline, but the team was hit by one of their own people—who had developed a problem—and he killed two people on his own. This person was Jamal Shuhani, who surrendered to Islamic forces.

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*Pharmaceutical Drug Regulations Said Needed

95LA0253A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
14, 15 May 95

[Report by Taj Mohammad Kazemi]

[FBIS Translated Text]

[14 May, p 5]

"The special court for dealing with drug violations will soon be established in Tehran." This news is perhaps the culmination of developments over the past few years regarding issues pertaining to the production and distribution of pharmaceutical drugs in the country. Since in the chaotic market of acquiring income by any means nothing is safe from profiteering and greed, it seems that the profiteers and the greedy, by targeting one of the most vital and necessary human needs—drugs—have started a dangerous game. What are the consequences and side effects of this dangerous game? Who are the players and stage managers of this game? The audience of this game includes the deprived and downtrodden people, who, usually because of lack of access to health resources and proper nutrition, are one consistent feature in drug consumption. They ask the authorities in charge of the procurement and distribution of drugs in the country: How long will this dangerous game continue? They say: We put up with shortages and high prices of food, housing, clothing, and other living needs any way we can, but when the health of ourselves and our loved ones is threatened, can we continue to put up with shortages and high prices of drugs?

Apparently, this is an old question to which no clear answer has been given so far. Even though the authorities, especially the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education, have in recent years on various occasions reported that the problem of the shortage of drugs will be eliminated, it seems that both the officials and the people have reached the conclusion that this is a complicated story, and the problem cannot be solved with promises.

Examining the Problems Regarding Drugs

The reasons for the shortage and chaos in the production and distribution of drugs in the province of Tehran were examined in the meeting of the Support Headquarters for Regulating the Market in the province. This report was published about 20 days ago in the newspapers. Apparently, the authorities of this headquarters, realizing the sensitivity of the issue, made the timely distribution of drugs needed by the people the central issue of their discussion and examined the problems related to it.

Seyyedzadeh, the governor general of Tehran, had announced in the session: Soon an inspection group will be appointed by the Governor General's Office to prepare a report on the domestic drug production factories and the problems of drug smuggling. After the results are announced to the Office of Punishments of the province, serious steps will be taken by establishing a special court to deal with drug violations. The governor of Tehran, too, had said in this session: Some domestic drug production factories are negligent in offering scarce drugs to the pharmacies, and they must be dealt with. He added: For example, at the present, there is a shortage of penicillin in the pharmacies, whereas the penicillin manufacturing factories have produced sufficient amounts of this drug and have it available, but it is not clear why they do not offer it on the market. Also, the pharmaceutical problems of the province of Tehran were studied in another session last week in the presence of the governor general of Tehran and the presidents of three of the medical science universities, Tehran, Iran, and Shahid Beheshti. In this session, it was announced that networks selling spoiled food and health items and bogus drugs have been identified and discovered in some areas of Tehran, and the violators must be dealt with and prosecuted seriously. Also, in this session, by presenting the percentage of these violations involving pharmacies, general practitioners, and specialists offices—and also illegal trade by drug dealers, especially on Naser Khosrow Street in Tehran—it was said that there are hundreds of unresolved cases by the inspectors of the three medical science universities—Iran, Tehran, and Shahid Beheshti—the legal status of which has not been clarified yet.

In closing this session, offering cooperation and combining the inspection group of these universities with the Government Punishment Committee of Tehran Province, Seyyedzadeh had said: The Tehran Governor General's Office is to cooperate and coordinate with the universities to establish a special headquarters to study the problems of drugs, treatment, and implementation of the law and to deal with drug and food violations.

Views of the Governor General of Tehran

Undoubtedly, the appearance of violations in the procurement and distribution of drugs is due to various factors, the most important of which, according to experts, is the disorganization regarding the procurement and distribution of food for the public in the country. These experts say, as long as we are dependent on imports for people's food in various ways and the rate of foreign currency needed for imports is not stabilized, naturally the procurement and distribution of needs, including drugs, will be problematic.

Mentioning that the grounds and reasons for the violations in the procurement and distribution of drugs can vary, Seyyedzadeh, the governor general of Tehran, said: First, on the basis of the drug goals and policies of the country and the use of foreign currency and also the change in the drug consumption model, there may be some sort of shortage regarding some pharmaceutical items in the country. Under certain conditions that vary according to the situation in the country and given the non-expert opinions and irresponsible actions of some of those involved in the issue of pharmaceuticals, this shortage appears critical to the public.

He added: In this situation, violations and illegal side effects appear in the channels of production and distribution of drugs regarding both drugs that are produced by domestic factories and those that are imported.

The governor general of Tehran continued: Naturally, this provides the opportunity to the dealers in pharmaceuticals to procure drugs through channels available to them and send them to places such as Naser Khosrow Street in Tehran or sell them at other secret "Naser Khosrows" at several times the price.

Seyyedzadeh, the governor general of Tehran, then referred to the factors that cause the increase in violations in the procurement and distribution of drugs and said: The shelving of drugs by some pharmacists, fraudulent prescriptions by certain pseudo-physicians, and the smuggling of drugs through the ports and borders of the country, considering the great difference in their price in the neighboring countries, necessarily increase the amount of these violations, and unfortunately, because sometimes these violations create a vicious cycle, their expansion endangers the life and health of the consumers and seriously disrupts the production and distribution of drugs in the country.

Failure To Deal With the Offenders Decisively

Experts of pharmaceutical issues in the country believe that even though the dependence of the pharmaceutical industry of the country on foreign raw materials is one of the major reasons for the appearance of violations in the procurement and distribution of drugs, these experts consider lack of proper and fundamental planning by the authorities in this sector and failure to decisively deal with the violators and disrupters in the procurement and distribution of drugs very important in the escalation of these violations.

In this connection, we might look at the news headlines of 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] alone that were devoted to this issue in KEYHAN. These reports indicate many of the problems:

—Proposal for Preventing Disruption in the Distribution of Drugs To Be Offered to the Majles

—Drug Shortages in the Country Will Be Eliminated Soon
—The Situation of Drugs Will Improve in Future Months
—Discovered on 250 Smugglers Were 69,000 Scarce Drugs
—The Director and the Warehouse Keeper of One of the Ministry of Health Departments Were Arrested for Selling Millions of Rials Worth of Narcotic Drugs on the Open Market
—Discovery of 100,000 Scarce Pharmaceutical Items From Smugglers in the Provinces of Mazandaran and Western Azerbaijan
—Discovery of 300,000 Scarce Pharmaceutical Items From a Hoarding Network in Hamadan
—Single-Item Prescription Centers To Be Established for Providing Scarce Drugs
—During Illegal Transfer From Kerman to Fars, 4.5 Tons of Drugs Were Discovered
—Two Pharmaceutical Companies Closed for Importing and Distributing Substandard Drugs
—The Arrest of Elements of a Bogus Drug Production Center in Karaj
—Discovery of 147,000 Scarce Pharmaceutical Items
—Discovery of 2 Million Scarce Pharmaceutical Items and Four Tons of Livestock Drugs
-Discovered From Three Smuggling Networks, 255,000 Scarce Pharmaceutical Items
—Nine Members of Bogus Betadine Procurement Network Entrapped in Kermanshah, Tehran, and Esfahan
—On Naser Khosrow Street, 35 Drug-Dealing Peddlers Arrested
—Shortage of Various Types of Drugs Will Soon Be Eliminated
—Minister of Health Explains Reasons for Closing Single-Item Prescription Procurement and Distribution Center

Similar headlines, of course with slight variations, were repeated in years prior to 1373; that is in 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992], 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993], and 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994], etc. What can be concluded from these headlines is nothing less than lack of planning in the procurement and distribution of drugs that is manifested in the unfulfilled promises of the related officials and the lack of decisiveness in dealing with the violators, which is also manifested in the repetition of violations and the void of headlines concerning the punishment of the violators.

In any case, it is obvious that until the problem of violations in the procurement and distribution of drugs is viewed differently from what it has been so far and the safeguarding of the life and health of the people is placed at the top of the agenda of the authorities in this sector, we cannot be very hopeful regarding improvement of the present conditions.

An expert on social issues believes in this connection that any sort of leniency in dealing with violations in the procurement and distribution of drugs is unjust and cruel to the thousands of human beings who suffer deadly pain as a result of the shortages of the drugs they need and who often lose their lives because of it.

This expert said: Of course, it should not be forgotten that the issue of the need for drugs is also an effect, and we must go after the cause. He regards lack of sufficient health resources and appropriate nutrition in some segments of the society as a cause and said:

Obviously, if we are able to raise the level of public health in the country through just distribution of incomes and also provide healthy, appropriate, and sufficient nutritional resources for them, we would not have much need for drugs.

According to him: "Under such conditions, the demand for drugs will seriously decline, and as a result the business that the dealers of drugs have built on the shoulders of ill and disabled human beings will also be shut down."

[15 May, p 5]

Patients who take risks for months and even years regarding one vital drug item, obviously, with the increase in production or imports of that drug, will engage in hoarding it.

According to the secretary of the Iranian Pharmaceutical Society: Except for a small number of pharmacies that make up about 5-6 percent of all pharmacies, the rest of the pharmacies are clear of any violation in the distribution of drugs.

The day after the publication in the newspaper of the painful letter of a dying patient in which he spoke of his need for one scarce drug, numerous people contacted the office of the newspaper and announced their readiness to provide the drug. In addition to showing the sense of concern and cooperation of our compatriots, this matter indicates a bitter problem as well: the accumulation and storage of scarce drugs in homes and other places which ultimately, after the expiration date, will be thrown in the trash.

According to experts, the appearance of such problems is rooted in the disorder in the system of distribution of drugs in the country. Patients who have taken risks for months and even years to find one vital drug, naturally after the increase in production or import of it, will engage in hoarding it, even in small amounts. Experts say that as long as the drug distribution system in the country is subject to different changes, such problems are inevitable.

Dr. Asghar Qadiri-Afshar, secretary of the Iranian Pharmaceutical Society, believes that at the start of the drug distribution stage, violations also begin. Stating that the distribution of drugs occurs on two levels, wholesale and retail, he said: In the wholesale sector, the distribution of drugs is made among pharmacies, and in the retail sector, distribution of drugs is among patients through pharmacies. He continued: Experience has shown that violations occur in both sectors. Stating that this issue includes only a small number of pharmacies, something like 5-6 percent of all pharmacies, and the rest of the pharmacies are not engaged in violations in the distribution of drugs, he said: To prove this point, we can look at powdered milk as an example, which is given to applicants only with a coupon, and drug distribution companies receive the same number of coupons for which they deliver boxes of powdered milk and settle accounts with them once every two or three months. He then asked: Then, where does all this powdered milk on Naser Khosrow Street and the like come from? He believes that much of this powdered milk is obtained by the people for various reasons and, because of financial and other problems, goes to Naser Khosrow Street in Tehran and similar places and is sold at high prices.

Dr. Qadiri-Afshar regards another reason for the violations in the distribution of drugs the existence of foreign currency problems in the country, which according to him results in lack of security among patients. In this connection, he said: Lack of timely distribution of vital drugs is one of the results of the foreign currency problems. As soon as the distribution of such drugs is made among pharmacies, since patients do not feel secure with regard to acquiring drugs and filling various prescriptions, they engage in accumulating the drugs. As a result, with these wrongful purchases, disruption occurs in the distribution of drugs, and a significant part of the needed drugs are hoarded by some of the patients. He added: Also, the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education, ignoring this problem, on the basis of the drugs that have been produced alone, engages in preparing erroneous statistics and devises strategies based on these incorrect statistics. He mentioned lack of balance between drug production and the actual needs of the society and continued: Another important factor in the appearance of violations in the distribution of drugs is the smuggling of drugs in the country. In this connection, he said: When the price of a drug is 100 tumans in the country, and the same item is worth $5 across the border, obviously, this will result in the smuggling of drugs.

The secretary of the Iranian Pharmaceutical Society regards the concentration of specialized drugs in nonspecialized centers another reason for violations in the distribution of drugs and said: A series of specialized drugs is distributed in the provincial cities and Tehran at the same level, whereas the related specialist may not be available in that provincial city. This causes such drugs to move from provincial cities to Tehran.

Dr. Qadiri-Afshar emphasized the establishment of a strong supervisory system in the wholesale and retail distribution sectors to fight the violators in the distribution of drugs and said: In the issue of smuggling drugs, the necessity for serious action by the related judicial organization is truly felt. In this connection, he suggested that drugs from production to consumption be given specific codes in order to be able to trace smuggled drugs more easily when they are discovered. Another solution that he suggested to prevent violations in the distribution of drugs is the establishing a drug distribution headquarters that is able to distribute drugs regularly and fairly. He said: The necessity of revision in the allocation of provinces and provincial cities is also important. Dr. Qadiri-Afshar evaluated the lack of stability in the rate of foreign currency among the most important factors contributing to the violations in the distribution of drugs in the country.

How Drug Violators Are Dealt With

What has been the attitude of responsible organizations toward violators in the procurement and distribution of drugs? Seyyedzadeh, the governor general of Tehran, stating that the Tehran Governor General's Office has reported its concerns about the increase in the drug violations to the president and has revealed some of the tangible facts in this connection, stated: With the approval of the president and his support for more active follow-up of this issue, the Government Punishments Committee of the Province of Tehran was asked to take the initiative to establish a special court for drug violators outside the legal framework of the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education. We hope that when this court starts its work and truly and continuously fights against the drug violators, a better margin of security will be created in the production and distribution system of drugs in the country.

To improve the situation of the procurement and distribution of drugs, Seyyedzadeh, the governor general of

Tehran, believes that first the precise and actual figures on the allocation and percentage of drug production in the domestic factories must be obtained, and also we must identify and control the route that these products go through to reach the consumer. Regarding his next suggestion for improving the situation of the procurement and distribution of drugs, the governor general of Tehran said: This suggestion includes more serious control of imported drugs through inspections, preventing the waste of necessary drugs, just distribution and division of drugs in all pharmacies in the country, and sending numerous supervisors to oversee the system of distribution of these kinds of drugs.

A pharmaceutical expert, stating that many drugs are scarce or not available and that because of such shortages the difference between the government price and the open market price is unbelievable and unjustifiable, said: We rarely find a patient who has not had problems filling a prescription in the past few years. He added: Unfortunately, the mechanism of this shortage is not analyzed correctly, and only pharmacies and patients complain about the shortage of drugs. The executive officials as well speak of the increase in imports and production, but what is not found, or found with difficulty, is drugs. This expert then mentioned several ways to eliminate the pharmaceutical problems of the country and said: Since the level of produced drugs is not in keeping with the population growth, the most vital issue is to know precisely the actual need for drugs, which must be compatible with the population growth of the country. If the discrepancy between the population and the amount of distributed drugs continues, naturally the problem of drugs will always exist, and when this population growth is in balance with the distribution of drugs, the problem of the shortage of drugs will need to be sought elsewhere.

He regards the low price of drugs in the country compared to other countries to be one of the important factors in the drug problems in the country and said: In our country, instead of food and living needs being inexpensive, which result in better health and welfare of the public. and drugs that are poisonous and dangerous to the body when used unsupervised and in large amounts being expensive, the opposite is true.

'Compulsory Purchase' of Goods Forbidden

95LA0272B Tehran RESALAT in Persian 23 May 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Affairs Division—The Organization for the Inspection and Supervision Over the Price and Distribution of Goods and Services has announced: The compulsory purchase of goods along with the purchase of pasteurized milk from the factory by the distribution agents and from the distribution agents by the consumers is prohibited and if observed will be considered a violation.**

According to the Public Relations Office of this organization, the Inspection and Supervision Organization has warned the pasteurized milk distribution agents and has asked the public to report any sort of violation in connection with the items subject to the market regulation plan to the news headquarters of this organization in Tehran and the local news headquarters of the inspection and supervision offices in other areas of the country by calling 124 or 8749111-20.

Tons of Rice To Be Distributed to Cooperatives

95LA0272A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 24 May 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Affairs Division—With the approval of the Cabinet, 50,000 tons of rice available in the customs department of Sistan and Baluchestan Province will be distributed through the employees and workers cooperatives and other public distribution centers.**

According to a report by the RESALAT economic correspondent, the Cabinet, in its recent meeting, based on Article 2 of the export and import regulations law, approved the release of rice available in the Iranian customs of Sistan and Baluchestan Province (50,000 tons) and its distribution under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce, after pricing by the Consumers and Producers Protection Organization through the workers and employees consumer cooperatives and other public distribution centers.

Our correspondent was unable to acquire information about the date of the start of the distribution of rice or the set price.

Daily Announces Production Rate for Eggs, Chicken

95LA0272D Tehran RESALAT in Persian 27 May 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Affairs Division—Mohammad Javad Iravani, the deputy minister of construction jihad, on Wednesday in a one-day gathering of the experts and managers of the National Madar Chicken Farms, said: The production of chicken has increased from 3,000 tons in 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] to 580,000 tons in 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995].**

Announcing this, Dr. Iravani added: The production of meat from one-day-old chickens has reached from 57 million pieces in 1368 to 140 million pieces in 1373.

He pointed out: The production of egg-laying chickens increased from 20 million in 1368 to 48 million in 1373.

Continuing, he said: At the present, 108 meat chicken production units have a production capacity of 500 million portions of meat chicken, and it is projected that by the end of the Second Plan, it will reach 800 million.

Also, according to plans, the production of eggs will increase to 700,000 tons.

In the continuation of this seminar, Engineer Seyfikaran, deputy for livestock affairs of the Ministry of Construction Jihad, said: At the present, 37 percent of the protein in the country is provided by the chicken sector and 38 percent by the milk industries. In terms of price, after milk, protein obtained from chicken is the least expensive.

Daily Reports Grain Prices Drop 3o%

95LA0264F Tehran SALAM in Persian 29 May 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] **News Service—The price of legumes decreased in Tehran by more than 30 percent.**

According to a report by our correspondent, following the implementation of the new foreign currency policies of the country and the psychological effects created in the market, many of the wholesalers of legumes, who up to some time ago created a psychological climate to increase the price of legumes, have made their hoarded legumes available to the market on a widespread basis.

The likelihood of a continuous decrease in prices has cast its shadow these days over the trade market and forced all wholesalers to sell their goods.

Based on our correspondent's report, yesterday morning, high quality split peas were sold at 4,300 rials [R] per kilogram, lentils at $3,000, chick peas at R4,500, white beans at R2,300, kidney beans at R3,900, and red beans at R2,800. On the average, compared to the past two weeks, prices have decreased by more than 30 percent.

Mr. Hallaj-Kashani, a seller of legumes on the Tehran market, mentioned the reason for the high price of legumes in the past two weeks as the creation of a psychological climate and the trade of goods by wholesalers and dealers and said:

Contrary to what was announced about purchases by foreign travelers and their relationship to the increase in prices, it must be said that first, their purchases were mainly in household appliances and luxury items, and second, due to mass production and the abundance of legumes in the country, this issue would not have much effect on the price of legumes.

Regarding the freeing of the import of legumes to the country, he said: The announcement about this issue has in itself caused a severe decrease in the price of legumes, and this has been effective in breaking the prices without any imports.

He projected that the price of legumes will decline until it reaches its realistic price.

Pakistan

U.S. Envoy's Call for Kashmir Elections Viewed

BK2706102095 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 27 Jun 95 p 6

[Editorial: "The Wisner wisdom"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] American Ambassador to India, Frank Wisner, Sunday [25 June] called for legislative elections in held Kashmir. [sentence as published] Talking to newsmen on his maiden visit to the territory, he said, "a political process should be initiated to elect people's representatives". Mr Wisner's advice is well-intentioned but it is not based on any thorough acquaintance with facts. Soon after Partition and its illegal occupation of the part of the Valley under its control now, India formed an equally illegal Constituent Assembly there. Thereafter, some farcical (rigged) elections have been held there and the occupied state has been ruled by a number of puppet chief ministers, among them Sheikh Abdullah, his son Farooq Abdullah (twice), Bakhshi Ghulam Mohammed, Sadiq, GM Shah and they were all quislings of the worst sort. If Mr Wisner studies the history of the electoral process in the occupied state, he will learn, that all these so-called elections were termed 'legislative'. He will also find out soon enough that the puppet chief ministers who have so far held power were never friends of the Kashmiri people. They were, to a man, self-seeking quislings interested only in themselves and in perpetuating the Indian stranglehold on occupied Kashmir. Even in that context, Farooq Abdullah was so ignorant that he did not even know what the Indian stand was on Azad Kashmir. This very man is reported to have been offered Rs [rupees] 10 million by Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao to contest the proposed "legislative" elections which have now been postponed.

In the circumstances, we would like to ask Mr Wisner whether he still thinks 'legislative' elections in occupied Kashmir would have even a vestige of fairness about them? In the presence of more than 600,000 Indian security forces in the occupied state, elections cannot be anything but rigged. Even the idea was so repugnant when suggested for another time that it drew widespread protests and the proposed elections had to be postponed. Now that the United States has stated repeatedly that Kashmir is a disputed territory and the American Senate is considering a resolution on Indian abuses in occupied Kashmir, here is something Mr Wisher should consider asking his government to consider. Elections of any sort are not going to help the situation. Countless bilateral talks between India and Pakistan have proved fruitless. The first Indian Prime Minister, Mr Jawaharlal Nehru had himself taken the problem of Kashmir to the United Nations. Subsequent UN resolutions (still on record) called for a plebiscite in Kashmir under UN auspices. That is the only possible solution to the impasse. Mr Wisner could suggest to his government that it work in the UN to that end, that is, implementation of UN resolutions on Kashmir. More importantly, that the plebiscite be held after complete withdrawal of Indian security forces from occupied Kashmir.

Further on Arrest of Alleged KGB Agent

BK2706110695 Lahore JANG in Urdu 26 Jun 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamabad — Federal agents arrested a KGB agent at the Karachi airport on Friday [23 June]. They seized certain sensitive documents and pictures from him. The KGB agent had flown to Pakistan from Russia on a chartered plane about two weeks ago. Pakistani authorities had been keeping a close watch on his activities ever since. Federal Investigation Agency and Intelligence Bureau officials arrested the agent, I. Viktor [name as transliterated], as he was about to board a flight for Russia at the Karachi airport on Friday. They seized important documents, a video cassette, and pictures of certain sensitive places related to Pakistan's defenses.

Eighteen other people were on board the chartered plane. They were searched and later allowed to leave for Russia.

President Asks India To Stop Unprovoked Firing

BK2606045495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has asked India to desist from unprovoked firing from across the Line of Control. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad last night, the president said the morale of Pakistan's armed forces was high to meet any challenge. He said arrangements were being made to avoid casualties due to unprovoked Indian shelling and firing near the Line of Control. He said safe roads were being developed to avoid casualties and ensure regular food supplies to the people of the affected areas.

Bhutto Seeks British Explanation on Altaf Hussain

BK2506121595 Islamabad THE NATION in English 25 Jun 95 pp 1, 8

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Islamabad — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has directed the Foreign Minister to get in touch with the British authorities and take up the matter of Altaf Hussain leading an anti-state armed struggle from London.

The Prime Minister issued these instructions to Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali during the parliamentary party meeting of the ruling People's Democratic Alliance on Saturday [24 June]. During the meeting, she said since Altaf Hussain had been issuing threatening statements from London it was high time the Foreign Office contact the British authorities seek some remedy.

Since he was not present in the meeting at that time, she asked her staff to convey this to the Foreign Minister.

Later talking to newsmen in her Parliament chambers also, she indicated that the government would talk to the British government. The Prime Minister said this when her attention was drawn to an interview of Altaf Hussain in which he had reportedly said that his group would not give up arms and would continue the armed struggle.

"I have not read the entire text of that interview. But if he has said this then we would surely ask the British governments as to how he is hurling threats of arms struggle against Pakistan while living it London."

To another question she also denied having any differences with President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari on handling the Karachi issue. [passage omitted]

U.S. Asked Not To Close Karachi Consulate

95AS0445F Karachi JANG in Urdu 14 May 95 p 3

[Article by Agha Masood Hussain: "U.S. Visas No Longer Issued in Karachi."]

[FBIS Translated Text] Surprising news report appeared in the press last Saturday [7 May] to the effect that the U.S. Consulate in Karachi would no longer issue nonimmigrant visas. This sudden and unexpected decision will have an immediate adverse effect on thousands of businessmen and students who have been travelling to the U.S. for education and trade. The residents of Karachi will now have to go to Lahore for U.S. visas and before going to Lahore, will have to explain over the telephone the reasons for their journey. Similarly, the people of Balochistan will have to go to Islamabad for nonimmigrant visas.

The U.S. Consulate has not offered any reason for its decision nor mentioned the-behind-the-scene factors which led to it. After repeated enquiries, the only explanation given was that the situation in Karachi was very precarious and since Consulate employees were not protected in any way, the decision was taken though reluctantly. The Consulate also said that though its decision would cause greater difficulties for the people of Karachi and Balochistan, it had no other choice. It should be noted here that last month, after the assassination of the two Consulate employees, there was unrest among the other employees. Many of them took long leaves of absence and returned to the U.S. Moreover, the assassins of the two employees have not as yet been found even though an FBI team is investigating the matter. Some individuals are of the opinion that the Consulate made the decision because it anticipated further disturbances in Karachi. A Consulate employee told me that he had never imagined that terrorists would attack Americans; that they [the Americans] had regarded the situation as involving Karachi citizens only and not U.S. citizens.; that the attack had astounded them. Nevertheless, is it justifiable to punish the people of Karachi for the death of the two Americans and stop issuing nonimmigrant visas? It is expensive and difficult for the residents of Karachi to travel to Lahore and for the residents of Balochistan to go to Islamabad. During the summer months, those wishing to obtain visas cannot even think of staying at a large hotel. Since most of the Karachi residents who need visas are either students or middle-income businessmen, travelling to Lahore is a very expensive undertaking for them; what is worse, they cannot be sure that they will get a visa. Hence, the U.S. Consulate should consider the problem sympathetically and review its decision. Karachi is not only Pakistan's largest city but the center of business and industry. The largest number of educated Pakistanis reside in this city and the largest number of U.S. companies are operating here very profitably. Denying the residents of this large city alone the opportunity to travel to the U.S. is tantamount to creating strained relations between the two countries. This is especially true at this time when the prime minister of Pakistan has just returned from her visit to the U.S. where she stated unequivocally that Pakistan wants greater trade, not U.S. aid. Transferring the visa section from Karachi to Lahore will not bring about greater business opportunities as was envisaged in the joint Pakistan-U.S. announcement. Moreover, thousands of Pakistanis travel to the U.S. for recreational purposes during the summer months and most of them live in Karachi. Now they will have to rethink their travel plans.

By ending the issuance of nonimmigrant visas, it seems as though the U.S. Consulate has punished the residents of Karachi for the death of the two Americans even though the peaceloving inhabitants of Karachi had nothing to do with the incident. As for terrorist activity in Karachi, it has become the source of anxiety and fear for every peaceloving Karachi resident. Up to now, many innocent individuals have been killed by unknown terrorists and the killing goes on as we write these lines. Terrorism has ended the business activity of ordinary citizens and people are moving away in large numbers from areas where terrorism is rife to more peaceful localities. Individuals involved in terrorism, however, enjoy the support of influential elements and politicians and Karachi residents are unable to do anything about it. In view of these facts, what justification is there for making it more difficult for the people of Karachi to obtain visas? In my articles I have repeatedly appealed to the government to seek the solution of Karachi's law and order problems through tolerance and in keeping with political exigencies. The issue of administration is worsening the situation rather than improving it because it is not a lasting solution to the problem. A few months ago, the government closed down the Indian Consulate on the grounds that it was encouraging terrorism. But closing the Indian Consulate did not end terrorism which has even increased to a certain extent. But what that measure did was to make it necessary for those residents of Karachi who wished to visit their relatives in India to travel to Islamabad for Indian visas. The expense incurred is so exorbitant that often many people give up the whole idea. Karachi is a mini-Pakistan where people from all over the country are engaged in business and are trying their best to help Pakistan's economic progress. These are the people who are referred to as the people of Karachi. All major countries including the U.S. should try to keep the city alive by helping the government solve the problems of the people.

Editorial Says OIC Supportive on Kashmir Issue

95AS0445E Lahore MUSAWAT in Urdu 22 May 95 p 4

[Editorial: "OIC Chairman Supports Pakistan's Stand on the Kashmir Issue."]

[FBIS Translated Text] Shah Hasan of Morocco, who is the chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization, has expressed anger and sorrow at the destruction of the shrine of Sheikh Nuruddin Wali by Indian troops in Charar Sharif. During a meeting with the foreign minister [of Pakistan] in Rabat, he expressed full support for Pakistan's stand on the Kashmir issue and said that it was the duty of Muslims all over the world to put pressure on India to end the violation of human rights in Kashmir and solve the Kashmir issue according to the resolutions passed by the UN.

King Hasan's statement shows how well the present government of Pakistan has succeeded in bringing the Kashmir problem to the world's attention. As soon as the present government was elected by the people of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto and her team prepared a program aimed at presenting the Kashmir issue to the world. A Kashmir committee was formed for the first time in Pakistan and a non-controversial political personality, namely, Nawab Zadah Nasrullah Khan, was appointed chairman. Under Bhutto's directions, he selected several delegations who toured the world and awakened interest in the Kahmir problem. A few days after assuming office, Benazir herself participated in the conference of the heads of state of commonwealth countries and placed the Kashmir issue before the world. Later, she brought the Kashmir issue before Amnesty International and explained point by point and in detail India's cruel treatment of the people of Kashmir. It was due to the efforts of the prime minister that in the Islamic Leaders' Conference in Casablance, not only did all Islamic countries support Pakistan's stand on Kashmir but the heads of state of Germany, Turkey, Iran and the U.S. acknowledged that the Kashmir issue was an international one, urged India to solve it and offered to act as intermediaries. As a result of these efforts, India came under international pressure and its weak leadership, not knowing what to do, attacked Charar Sharif and deeply wounded the feelings of Muslims; the Indian leaders then started to threaten Pakistan with war. Nevertheless, the government of Pakistan is determined to keep the Kashmir issue before the world and to ignore threats and, consequently, the number of its supporters on the Kashmir issue continues to increase internationally. The fact is that the government has presented the Kashmir issue before the world with an precedented intensity and success and OIC Chairman King Hasan's support of Pakistan's position offers one more proof of the Pakistani government's success. What needs to be done to solve the Kashmir issue is that all Islamic countries should boycott India economically and sever all relations with that country; this will persuade India to abandon its intransigence and, in accordance with the UN resolutions, give the Kashmiris the right of self-determination. The danger of war in South Asia would then be ended and the people of the area would be able to enjoy prosperity.

MQM Said Excluded From Governor Appointment

95AS0445C Karachi AMN in Urdu 23 May 95 p 3

[Editorial: "The Appointment of a New Governor."]

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of Pakistan has appointed Senator Kamal Azfar the new governor of Sindh in place of Mahmood A. Haroon whose activities had been suspended for a long time and the Governor's House had remained vacant. According to press reports, there was strong disagreement between the governor and the chief minister of Sindh which was not resolved even after mediation by the president and the prime minister. That may have been the reason why the governor travelled to foreign countries several times but the acting governor could not fulfill the demands of the office. Sindh's chief minister, Abdullah Shah, was summoned repeatedly to Islamabad for consultation and advice while the governor was also in the city. According to informed sources, the federal government failed to resolve the differences between the province's two major figures and finally Mahmood A. Haroon was forced to relinquish the post of governor.

Kamal Azfar is Sindh's twentieth governor. After his appointment he announced that the doors of Governor House would always remain open to compromise; however, his success depends on how he views the problems of urban and rural Sindh and how effectively he can end the discriminatory practices within the province. The province's intellectuals are concerned that if the new governor were to try to change the present policies, he would face resistance from the Sindh government and would be unable to carry out his duties effectively. Nevertheless, the Pakistan People's Party's [PPP] urban circles are optimistic regarding the appointment of Kamal Azfar. At any rate, until the new governor's course of action becomes apparent and he tries to remedy the injustics suffered by Sindh's urban areas, it will not be possible to predict his chances of success.

The political situation in Sindh and the ostracizing of urban areas from provincial and national politics is causing the law and order situation in the cities to grow worse day by day. The gulf between the government and MQM [Mohajir Qaumi Movement] is widening at a rapid pace. If, in view of the situation, MQM had been allowed to participate [in the selection of a governor], it woould have been easier to improve conditions. Clearly, MQM is Sindh's second largest party and the only party with influence in Sindh's urban areas. As a representative party, MQM should by necessity have been allowed to participate in the deliberations [regarding the choice of governor]. The real issue in Sindh is that of bringing about an understanding between the government and

MQM but, when appointing a new governor, the government did not include MQM even formally in the decision.

Sindh's new governor belongs to the PPP; previously, he had left this party and for a time joined Jatoi's National People's Party [NPP]; however, he later rejoined the PPP. He is considered close to the prime minister but recently his views on Karachi's problems and MQM which appeared in various newspapers did not create a good impression. In urban areas, he is regarded as a politician with contradictory opinions. In view of these factors, it does not appear that his appointment will clear the atmosphere.

The federal government's problem is that it shows no inclination to reach a compromise in the center or the provinces. Sindh's problem is not an administrative one; Pakistan's intellectuals all agree that the government should take political measures in Sindh and reach a compromise with the opposition without delay. However, the government seems incapable of realizing the delicacy of the situation and is ruling without sharing responsibility with anyone else. In Sindh, where the situation is very delicate and serious, a political compromise is better than any administrative decisions.

The new governor of Sindh will have to carry out his duties while under pressure from the province's situation, government policies and the wishes of the people. If he ignores what the people want, he will not be able to do justice to his responsibilities.

Editorial Views Government Targetting Mohajirs

95AS0445B Karachi AMN in Urdu 25 May 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Answer Us!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A few days ago, prime minister Bhutto said that she would fight terrorists in the streets. When a day of mourning was being observed for the murder of five jailed MQM [Mohajir Qaumi Movement] members by rangers and the police, one witnessed how terrorists were being fought in the streets. The next day, government authorities repeated their announcement that open war was being waged against terrorists. Does the People's Party government think that 20 million Mohajir people, MQM and its leadership, to whom the Mohajirs have given their mandate, are all terrorists? Can the government fight against 20 million Mohajirs? And if such a war should break out, what will be the result? How long will the Mohajir people, their beloved leader Altaf Hussain and their only representative party MQM, be targetted for political vengeance? How long will political and economic exploitation continue and how long will the present rulers light oil lamps to celebrate the murder of Mohajirs? Who will answer these questions?

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